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Government Policy Change Affects Immigrants

Richmond Friends Not Guilty

photo by Ken Rabb

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PARENT
CENTER

gay community news

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Boston/Boise Fundraiser

Judge's Appearance at Lecture Causes Storm

After a 20-minute hearing, before the Supreme Judicial Court on Thursday, April 13, Justice Robert Bonin was suspended until "allegations of misconduct" can be investigated by the Committee on Judicial Responsibility. Bonin's lawyers had argued that suspension should not be made until formal charges were filed against Bonin. The following story was filed before the Judicial Court's action.

By David Brill

BOSTON — Superior Court Chief Justice Robert M. Bonin's appearance at the April 5 fund-raising lecture by Gore Vidal to benefit the Boston/Boise Committee has sparked a raging controversy in all branches of Massachusetts government that may lead to Bonin's removal from office. In a prepared statement, Bonin denied knowing that the funds raised from the event would be used to affect upcoming trials, stating, "I went to a church solely to hear a lecture by an eminent literary figure."

Officials of the Boston/Boise Committee reacted angrily to press coverage of the Vidal lecture. BBC co-chairperson Rev. Edward Hougen, in a press conference on April 7 at the Arlington Street Church, reiterated that the BBC is not a defense committee. Hougen emphasized that the committee's only purposes were to insure a fair trial for the defendants and to end the attacks upon gay people that have surfaced in recent months.

Hougen condemned Suffolk County District Attorney Garrett Byrne, accusing him on engendering an atmosphere of "witchhunts, hysteria, guilt by association, and character assassination." On the propriety of Bonin's appearance at the Vidal lecture, Hougen said, "He was there as a private citizen."

Byrne asked Bonin on April 6 to remove himself from sitting on and from the assignment of judges to any of the so-called Revere cases. He accused the judge of lending "the prestige of his office to advance the interests of the defendants."

My only interest," Byrne added, "is that there be a fair and impartial trial for these defendants and also one that



Justice Bonin and Angela Bonin at the Gore Vidal lecture.

protects the best interests of the people of this Commonwealth."

Bonin has been accused of violating Canon 5, Subsection A-2 of the state's Judicial Code of Ethics, which says that a judge "should not lend the prestige of his office to advance the private interests of others; nor should he convey or permit others to convey the impression that they are in a special position to influence him." The code permits judges to attend fund-raising events of organizations so long as they are not speakers or guests of honor.

Asked to Resign

Reaction to Bonin's appearance at the fundraiser, which was first reported in the *Boston Herald-American*, came swiftly:

- Rep. Peter Flynn (D-Bridgewater) filed a resolution in the House demanding Bonin step aside until the state's Committee on Judicial Responsibility can "examine the judge's conduct." That resolution has been referred to the House Rules Committee for action.

- Rep. Mark Fitzsimmons (D-Weymouth) and Rep. James Sheets (D-Quincy), a candidate for Congress, filed legislation stripping the chief justice of his authority to assign cases.

- Westford Police Chief Joseph R. Cornell, president of the Massachusetts Police Chiefs Association, said, "I think Bonin should resign or be fired forthwith . . . If the facts are as I

see them, I certainly have to classify his action as reprehensible."

- House Minority Leader Francis W. Hatch (R-Beverly), who hopes to oppose Gov. Michael Dukakis in this fall's gubernatorial election, called Bonin's appearance "appalling," adding, "he's unfit to be Chief Justice. It's similar to Judge Sirica going to a benefit for G. Gordon Liddy."

- Philip Rollins, president of the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association, called Bonin's appearance "a disgrace" and "inexcusable."

- Walter H. McLaughlin, Bonin's predecessor as chief justice, assailed Bonin, "It is incredible that he did not know the nature of the meeting, or that nobody told him in advance, or that when he arrived and found out the nature of the meeting, he did not walk out."

- State Sen. David Locke (R-Wellesley) filed a resolution calling upon Bonin to suspend himself pending a judicial investigation. Lock's resolution was admitted after the Senate voted to suspend rules on a vote of 23-8. The resolution ultimately passed 29-2. (See roll call at end of article.)

On April 8, the *Boston Globe* editorially asked, and on April 10, Bonin agreed, to remove himself from the assignment of the Revere cases. However, when the Supreme Judicial Court asked Bonin on April 11 to voluntarily suspend himself from all functions as a

judge, he refused. "I believe I must adhere to my personal principles and be faithful to the serious civil liberties issues involved in attending a lecture," the judge wrote in a letter to Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Edward F. Hennessey.

Reaction to Refusal

Gov. Michael Dukakis, who underwent extreme criticism last year for nominating Bonin to the post of chief justice, wrote Bonin and asked him to "reconsider" his refusal to step aside.

- Rep. Peter Flynn filed another bill, one using the "address" method to remove Bonin from office. Under that method, which was last used to remove Dorchester District Court Judge Jerome Troy five years ago, both branches of the Legislature must pass the legislation, at which point it must be signed by the governor and approved by the Executive Council, which confirms all judges.

- The Supreme Judicial Court's seven justices interrupted their Wednesday morning sessions to decide how to respond to Bonin's letter. Although the justices are legally able to suspend any judge without a hearing, they decided to provide Bonin with the opportunity of one. The hearing, which was scheduled for April 13, was designed to offer Bonin the opportunity to give his version of why he appeared at the Vidal lecture. The justices are most interested in determining whether Bonin did, as the Boston newspapers report, receive a request on the afternoon of April 5 from one of the defendant's lawyers not to attend the benefit.

Angela Bonin, the judge's wife, was furious at seeing a photograph of herself and her husband on the front page of the *Herald-American*. "My husband and I are no longer private citizens . . . If a judge cannot attend a lecture by an author in a church, none of us is safe, none of our civil rights are safe. A support of gay rights is a support of all of our civil rights."

Rep. Barney Frank, who was one of the first speakers at the now-notorious April 5 benefit, told GCN that he felt in was inappropriate for Bonin to attend "if he thought it was a benefit

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Reported Incident at Canadian Border

Policy Change Affects Immigration

By Jim Marko

BOSTON — After a meeting with members of the National Gay Task Force, the US Public Health Service has adopted the position of the American Psychiatric Association and will no longer define homosexuals as either "sex deviants" or "psychopathic personalities." The Public Health Service stated on April 4 that it will inform all its officers at border crossings, and all Immigration officials and State Dept. visa officers of the policy change.

On April 6, just two days after the announced change, a gay Canadian citizen was refused entrance into this country because of his sexuality.

Officer Cites Policy

Serge Savard of Montreal was coming into this country with an American citizen, Iolo Carew, a resident of Somerville, Mass. At the border crossing at Highgate Springs, Vermont, Savard was questioned by an Immigration officer and refused admittance because he is gay.

According to Carew, the officer, S. J. Roth, read the policy against admittance of anybody who can be described as a "sex deviate" or as having "psychopathic disorders."

Argument Doesn't Work

Despite a long discussion between Roth, Carew and Savard, the officer would not allow the Canadian citizen

to enter this country. Carew told GCN that Roth merely stated "It's the law."

Bruce Voeller, Co-Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force told GCN that he expected that there would be "some problems" in affecting the policy change. "When cases [of non-admittance based on homosexuality] occur, we will discuss them with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and try to straighten them out."

Policy Far Reaching

Voeller said that the "far-reaching policy change will go a long way toward ending this country's exclusion of gay visitors and immigrants."

"We are also hopeful," Voeller said,

"that any remaining problems can be resolved, since INS General Counsel David Crosland has agreed to personally serve as liaison between his agency and NGTF, and has encouraged us to bring any complaints by gay aliens or prospective immigrants directly to his attention."

Another Meeting in Series

The meeting between NGTF and the Health Service was the third held in the past year in the effort to have the policy changed. The Task Force presently has meetings scheduled with the Civil Service Commission, the Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare, and the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.

News Notes

BRYANT TO BOSTON, SORT OF

BOSTON — Word of Life International, an evangelical organization headed by Jack Wyrzten and Harry Bollback which "reaches youth with the Gospel of Christ," is bringing this roadshow to Boston.

Word of Life rallies, with "stirring message, music, story," will occur here and in Maine and Connecticut in the coming months.

Wyrzten and Bollback will appear live at the rallies, with an "8 foot Statue of Liberty and a chorus of 100," and Anita Bryant will appear on "A Giant Screen."

The Boston rally is set for May 13 at 7 p.m. at the Park St. Church. On Friday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m., Word of Life will be at Bulkeley High School in Hartford, Conn. Word of Life appears at the Portland City Hall, Portland, Maine on Sunday, May 14 at 2:30 p.m.

NAKED CIVIL SERVANT

BOSTON — The BBC-TV produced *The Naked Civil Servant* is finally being aired in the Boston area. WNAC-TV, Channel 7, will be showing the award winning program Monday, April 17 at 10 p.m.

The Naked Civil Servant is based on the autobiography of Quentin Crisp — "... not merely a self-confessed homosexual but a self evident one." In the book, Crisp went on to say, "... I put my case not only before the people who knew me but also before strangers. This was not difficult to do. I wore makeup at a time when even on women eye shadow was sinful." John Hurt portrays Quentin Crisp in the televised version of his story.

THE CELLULOID CLOSET

WASHINGTON, DC — The American Film Institute Theater at the Kennedy Center will present an extensive six-week retrospective entitled "The Celluloid Closet: Homosexuality in the Cinema." More than 40 films will be shown spanning the past seventy-five years, including early silents and talkies, contemporary productions, foreign and American films, documentaries, underground works and television shows.

The program, which will run from May 23 through July 6, will survey the media and examine its treatment of homosexuality. The program is the first major US film survey of homosexuality in films. It follows a similar program presented by the British Film Institute in London last year.

The American Film Institute Theater is located in the Hall of States at the Kennedy Center. Box office hours are from noon to 9 p.m. daily. For ticket information call (202) 785-4601.

BENEFIT FOR BOSTON NOW

BOSTON — The Boston Chapter of the National Organization for Women is holding "A Tribute to Midge Mackenzie and Dr. Kenneth Edelin" on Friday evening, May 5, at 8 p.m. at Christ Church, Zero Garden St. in Cambridge.

Mackenzie will present parts of her Masterpiece Theatre series "Shoulder to Shoulder" along with clips of her other film work. Dr. Edelin will give a presentation of his experiences.

For this benefit, NOW is asking a \$3 donation at the door. Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling NOW at 661-6015.

BU WOMEN'S YELLOW PAGES

BOSTON — A new resource for Boston University women has just become available. The first edition of the *Boston University Women's Yellow Pages* includes course listings and descriptions of all the women's courses taught at BU, name and numbers of numerous campus women's groups, and listings in over 10 categories such as BU women's counseling, assertiveness training at BU, and Black and Third World Women on campus.

The handbook, which was funded by a grant from the Graduate Student Association of the School of Education, was researched and written by volunteers from the BU Women's Center and the University Resources Task Force.

CANADA'S SLOW PROCESS

OTTAWA, ONT — In a letter to the National Gay Rights Coalition, Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau has stated that he expects the Canadian Human Rights Commission to make recommendations for further government action on gay rights in Canada.

In a carefully worded letter, Trudeau stated that the "Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Dept. of External Affairs and the Dept. of National Defence have found that homosexuals are targeted for blackmail to a greater extent than heterosexuals . . . there is no government policy, either overt or covert, to discriminate against homosexuals."

The Prime Minister added, however, that "the Armed Forces . . . have found that due to the special character of the Forces, individuals who are found to be homosexual are given discharges which do not cite specific reasons for release, in order to avoid harassment and for their own benefit."

Trudeau added in his letter to the Coalition that he and his colleagues "feel strongly that the Federal Government must make every effort to eliminate prejudiced attitudes towards homosexuals, but you will appreciate that this can be a very slow process."

WOMAN PREACHES IN WESTMINSTER

LONDON — The Rev. Mary Michael Simpson has become the first ordained woman to preach in Westminster Abbey. Rev. Simpson, a Canon Residentiary at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, appeared at the Abbey at the beginning of a five-week tour to help British advocates of sexual equality build public pressure for the ordination of women by the mother church of the worldwide Anglican community.

Her sermon was a strong statement in favor of sexual equality in the Christian church, condemning the church for treating women as "second class Christians."

"Christian creativity for the present age must not depend on male leaders," Rev. Simpson said. "Woman's contribution — from women properly trained and authorized — is essential."

AM TIKVA COURSE

BOSTON — Am Tikva is sponsoring a six-week mini-course on the Middle East, beginning April 14. The scheduled curriculum includes The History of Zionism, History of the Palestinian Nationalist Movement, Inter-Arab Relations and their effects on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Films and guest speakers will also be a part of the course.

For further details and information, call 524-1890. This course is free, but materials will cost an estimated \$10.

INDY CONFERENCE

INDIANAPOLIS, IN — The first Midwest Gay/Lesbian Awareness Conference will be held June 30 - July 2 at the Michigan Street campus of Indiana University. Sponsored by the Indianapolis Coalition for Human Rights, the conference will feature Barbara Gittings and Allan Spear as keynote speakers. Gittings is Coordinator of the Task Force on Gay Liberation of the American Library Assoc. and Spear is an openly gay State Senator from Minnesota.

Workshops, films, panel discussions, a dance and a free concert will highlight the conference. Individuals who wish to register for the conference are asked to write to the Coalition for Human Rights, Box 20124, Indianapolis, IN 46220, or call (317) 846-0780 or (317) 388-8144.

WOMAN NAMED MARINE GENERAL

WASHINGTON, DC — President Carter has nominated Col. Margaret Brewer to be the first woman general of the Marine Corps. The nomination of Brewer, who helped break down the sex discrimination barriers in that arm of the service, is subject to Senate approval.

The proposed promotion accompanied word that Brewer would also be named the director of information, or official spokesperson, for the Marine Corps headquarters in Washington.

The Marines are the last of the armed services to elevate a woman to general's or admiral's rank.

WOMEN'S THEOLOGICAL COALITION

NEWTON CENTRE — The Women's Theological Coalition of the Bastan Theological Institute are sponsoring a "Gay Women and the Church" conference on Saturday, April 22 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The conference, which is co-sponsored by a group of students from Andover Newton Theological School, will be held in the faculty lounge of Andover Newton, 210 Herrick Rd., Newton Centre.

The conference is free and open to the public. It will be followed that evening by a concert of women's music by Carole Etzler, a feminist musician from Atlanta, Georgia. The concert will be held at 8 p.m. in Sturtevant Hall at the school. Donation is \$2.50.

STAR NEWS SERVICE

HOUSTON, TX — Texas gay publisher Henry McClurg has announce his intention to establish a national gay news service in late April. He said that 32 local gay publications, including GCN, have been invited to join. "What we intend to establish," McClurg said, "is a professional news service, similar to your establishment services such as AP and UPI, but of course on a smaller scale. This service will provide coverage of gay news to the member publications."

McClurg added that his venture would not be a success unless he can convince at least 20 gay publications to join the service, which he is calling Star News Service, or SNS.

Star News is at 400 Westmoreland, Houston, TX 77006, phone 713-522-7416.

AESTHETIC UNREALISM

NEW YORK — Forty-three men and six women signed a large advertisement in the March 30 *New York Times* to assert their "conversion" from homosexuality to heterosexuality through the vehicle of "Aesthetic Realism," a neo-religion which claims to offer its members a new way to see the world. The statement was made in response to a *Sunday Times Magazine* article three weeks before entitled "Homosexuality on Campus."

The statement credits AR's founder, Eli Siegel, and a "teaching trio" of three other men with changing "the way we see the world, the way we see women, and we are no longer homosexual."

"Aesthetic Realism is a way of seeing the world and oneself that says: One, the purpose of everyone is to like the world; Two, the way to like the world and the things in it is to see both as the aesthetic oneness of opposites; Three, the greatest danger for a person is to have contempt for the world and what is in it, despite their aesthetic structure."

SEXIST JOB TITLES CHANGED

WASHINGTON, DC — The U.S. Dept. of Labor has published a revised edition of the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles* which replaces the job titles viewed as sexist in the 1965 edition.

Instead of "linemen" or "foremen" or "workmen," firms should now be hiring "supervisors" and "operators." Such titles as "scrub woman" or "cigarette girl" have now been changed to "cleaner" or "cigarette vendor."

The new dictionary is designed to make it easier for employers to hire women for all jobs, and to make it more difficult to discriminate in pay between men and women with the same job description.

MSU GAY STUDENT PRES.

EAST LANSING, MI — The undergraduate population at Michigan State University has elected its first openly gay candidate as student body president.

Dan Jones, a junior from Shelton, Conn., gained 3,436 votes, some 500 more than his nearest rival. Jones, who is a horticulture major, said he didn't deal with "gayness." "Throughout the campaign, students got to know me as a person. I dealt with issues of concern to all students. They couldn't help but realize that gayness is only one of many adjectives to describe a person. It doesn't put me way out in left field," Jones said.

NY Representative Admits Relations with Men

Richmond Pleads Not Guilty to Solicitation

WASHINGTON, DC — Rep. Frederick Richmond (D-NY) pleaded not guilty to having solicited sex from two men at his home in Washington. Richmond, whose trial date was set for May 5 on a charge of soliciting a male undercover police officer, admitted that he had sought sexual relations with a man.

In a statement to his constituents Richmond asked for their compassion and understanding. "The facts are," he wrote, "that I made solicitations with payment of money to a young man beginning almost a year ago, and as a result of these solicitations, last February, I made further solicitations with payment of money, in my own home, to a man who, unbeknownst to me, was an undercover police officer. Nothing more happened."

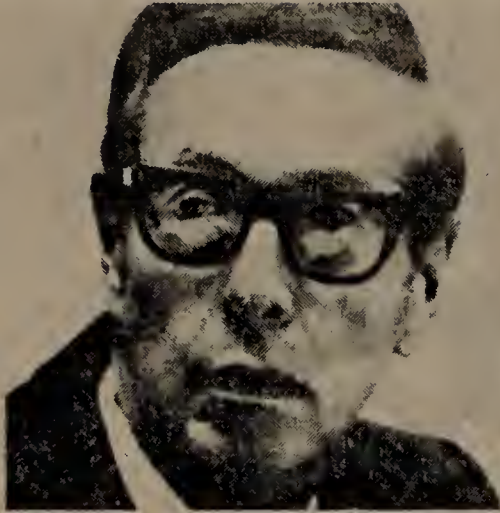
Richmond, a native of Mattapan, Mass., is divorced and has gone into

seclusion with his family. In his statement to his constituents, the representative said, "I prayerfully ask your compassion and understanding at this extremely difficult time for myself, my parents, my son, my staff — and for you."

The charge of solicitation carries a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail, a \$250 fine or both. Richmond's attorney stated that under the "first offender" system the case will most likely not be prosecuted.

Reports this past week stated that Richmond is not going to drop his bid for re-election, although many of his colleagues are quoted as saying that the effect on his political future could be severe. Richmond had been mentioned as a possible candidate for the US Senate in 1980.

Support has come from a number of quarters after Richmond's statement



Rep. Frederick Richmond

and court appearance. New York Democrats described him as "one of the most effective and hard-working members of Congress."

New York Mayor Edward Koch said through a spokesperson that Richmond was a "good friend and whatever personal support I can give him and whatever political support I will give him, I will."

Meade Esposito, leader of the Democratic Party in Brooklyn, Richmond's home district, expressed doubt that the arrest would ruin Richmond's political career. "I will support the guy," said Esposito, "let's judge him on his performance as a Congressman."

The New York Times reported that a sampling of Rep. Richmond's constituents found most to be sympathetic. "He's the best Congressman we've ever had in this district," Charlotte Wolf told the *Times*, "this stuff is none of my business."

Providence Ordinance Defeated, Community Continues Fight

PROVIDENCE, RI — The Rhode Island Gay Political Caucus will file suit against four members of the City Council for allegedly violating the constitutional rights of the supporters of the Providence anti-discrimination ordinance. The ordinance was defeated by the Council on April 6 by a 28 to 6 vote.

Charles Noice, a spokesperson for the Caucus, told GCN that the group will file a suit in US District Court charging that the procedures used by the City Council Committee on Ordinances during a March 29 hearing violated First Amendment rights of free speech. Council members Vincent J. Cirelli, chair of the committee, Edward

Xavier, Thomas Pearlman and Thomas Glavin will be named as defendants in the suit. Noice charged that the committee conspired to restrict the rights of those who supported the embattled anti-discrimination measure by placing a three minute restriction on their presentations without putting a limit on opponents.

The ordinance banning discrimination has been re-introduced in Providence, but without the phrase "sexual orientation." Noice said that the Gay Caucus will try to add an amendment with the phrase in place.

"It will be clearly defined this time," Noice said, "so that people will understand what we are working for." In a

show of support for the ordinance about 100 people attended a rally at Brown University on Saturday, April 8. Speaking to the audience was Norman Jacques, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Congress from the First District in Rhode Island.

"It's even a shame we have to be here tonight and talk about gay rights," he said, "because I don't think it's any of my business what two people are doing in the privacy of their homes and it's not the government's business either."

Marge Ragona, minister of the Metropolitan Community Church also appeared at the rally. She told the crowd that one in ten Americans are

gay, which means "families are affected." "We are your children," Ragona said.

Organizers of the rally also read a letter sent to the Gay Caucus by Midge Costanza, an aide to President Carter. She responded after an information package sent to a Rhode Island Senator by the group was forwarded to the White House.

Constanza wrote that Carter has stated on many occasions "that he would move quickly to end discrimination against all peoples, gay or otherwise. Movement has been slow but we will continue to work."

Two Killings in Denver Lead to Demonstration

DENVER, CO — Some 200 people marched through the downtown section of this city on Sunday, April 2 to protest the second killing by a Denver police officer of a transsexual in less than nine months.

Tony "Irene" DeSoto was shot by Vice Squad Officer Lawrence Subia on March 30. Police say DeSoto struggled with the officer when an attempt was made to arrest DeSoto on charges of prostitution. On July 14, 1977, an officer of this city's Vice Squad shot and killed Eugene "Tracy" Levy. Again, police reported that Levy was protesting a prostitution arrest.

Protestors walked nearly three miles through the city to the Denver Police Building to demand disciplinary action against the two officers. Both officers had no charges filed against them.

Demonstrators called for the establishment of an effective citizen's police review commission with real power to discipline the police. The march sponsors, Transsexual, Lesbian and Gay Defense, vowed to launch an independent investigation into the shooting death of the 29-year-old DeSoto.

"We can't depend on a straight police department, a straight DA's office and a straight coroner's officer," organizer Phil Allen said. "We know who the killers are."

Addressing the rally in front of police headquarters, Dr. Robert Jankowski continued his moves for a change in the police policy that allows officers to carry only deadly weapons with them. Vice officers in Denver, who are usually in plainclothes, often do not carry blackjacks for fear they

will be identified as police officers.

"One death is one too many," said Jankowski, "Now there's two. Police should have a means of subduing persons they arrest without killing them."

The march through Denver proceeded without incident, although the lack of a permit kept the marchers on the sidewalks. Fearing police would cite them for even the most minor offense, the marchers also stopped at each traffic light.

The newly formed Transsexual, Lesbian, Gay Defense called on the gay community in Denver to "resist the violence against us. We must protest these racist, sexist and homophobic attacks, because if the police can kill one of us without active resistance and self defense from the community, they can kill any of us."



ASSISTANCE REQUESTED — The body of Patrick Smith (above), 41, of Foxboro, was found on March 24 in the cruising area at the Blue Hills Reservation. He had been at various gay bars in the downtown area on Thursday evening, and police are seeking information from persons who may have known him or saw him that evening. The death has not been ruled accidental or murder, as it is unclear whether he fell or was pushed from the observation tower. Persons who can provide information could contact Det. Sgt. Thomas White or Det. Leo. Papile of the Metropolitan Police at (617) 282-8760.

Book Shipment from New York Seized by Customs

NEW YORK, NY — A shipment of books, phonograph records and other material sent from the Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop to an Edmonton, Alberta, Canada bookstore was seized by Canadian Customs.

The shipment was designated as "controversial" by the Collector of Customs in Edmonton. Officials told GCN that the shipment was still being held pending further investigation.

Among the books seized at the border were *Lesbian and Women's Movement*, *Homosexual: Oppression and Liberation*, and *The Joy of Lesbian Sex*. The three books are now available in bookstores throughout Canada.

In a letter to the Oscar Wilde Bookstore, Rosemary Ray of Vanguard Books said that the seized material will probably be released shortly. She added that the seizure was "in keeping with the general climate in Canada at this time as we await the decision of *The Body Politic* trial and Anita Bryant is visiting Western Canada next month — so the anti-gay forces are mustering their allies."

Craig Rodwell, the owner of the Oscar Wilde, wrote a letter to Barry Steers, the Consul General of the Canadian Consulate in New York City.

Writing to protest the seizure, Rodwell stated that the action was "part of the recent actions by the Canadian

government against my people in Canada — including the attempt to close down the best Gay liberation newspaper in the world, *The Body Politic*, and the raids by machinegun toting police people on Gay bars in Montreal. Please inform your government that Gay Liberation is not going to go quietly away."

A number of phonograph records were also seized by Canadian Customs along with the books mentioned. Two copies each of *AC/DC Blues*, *Lesbian Concentrate*, *Face the Music*, and *I Know You Know* were in the seized shipment. Also being held by Customs are 5 Lambda bookmarks and 3 crocheted patches.

editorial

Bonin, Byrne, Boston/Boise

A lie is just as good as the truth as long as someone believes you.

That seems to be the cardinal rule being followed by the Boston media and the office of Suffolk County District Attorney Garrett H. Byrne. John Silber is no friend of the gay community, but maybe "grade inflation" and "the flight from excellence" are indeed the reasons why so many lies about the so-called "Revere sex-ring," the Boston/Boise Committee, and Gore Vidal's lecture in Boston on April 5 continue to be repeated in the press. Maybe the reporters and lawyers are just stupid.

But as we see it, homophobia is the better explanation. What has happened with the Boston/Boise Committee is the same thing that happened with the library arrests. The press and the public consider the words of the police and District Attorney to be the gospel and not to be questioned. Those lies must be stopped. Chief among them:

- None of the men has pleaded guilty.
- The alleged "victims" were not all 8 to 13 years old. In fact, all but two of them were 14, 15 or 16 at the time the incidents are said to have taken place. Such a case probably could not have even happened in a state like Maine, where the age of consent is 14. (Such geographical disparities destroy any assertion of the "universal reprehensibility" of such crimes.)

Most of the media have been totally unfair in their coverage of the cases. Repeated references to "child molesters" on the evening news only serve to convince us more that Garrett Byrne has some hold over the press in this city. Perhaps if Byrne were examined with as much diligence as Superior Court Chief Justice Robert Bonin has been examined recently, the public could then decide who the real wrong-doers are.

The District Attorney called for Bonin to remove himself from any participation in the Revere case when it was revealed that the judge was one of 1500 (not 100, as the *Globe* reported) who attended a \$5-per-person fundraising lecture by Gore Vidal at the Arlington Street Church. Byrne's claim that the judge's appearance at the church precludes the possibility of "a fair and impartial trial for the defendants and also one that protects the best interests of this Commonwealth" is ludicrous.

If the District Attorney were interested in a fair trial, he would not have described the defendants as members of a "ring" when some of the defendants did not even know each other. He would not have described the charges as rape, when, in fact, no man has been charged with actual rape. And most importantly, if Byrne's office were concerned about justice, then the so-called "victims" (none of whom made complaints) would not have been harassed, threatened, intimidated, and lied to by the prosecuting attorneys.

What Byrne is most interested in, it is clear, is re-election. Last week, former Chief Justice Walter McLaughlin (who has called for Bonin's resignation) addressed a letter to thousands of lawyers in Massachusetts soliciting their attendance at a \$50-per-person fundraising party for Byrne. The *Boston Globe* court reporter who has been covering the entire affair, Joseph Harvey, is also the Town Counsel for the town of Winthrop — part of Suffolk County — and, historically, an important cog in Byrne's re-election machinery. Why have we not read of these conflicts of interest?

The gay community is being used here in two ways. First, we are being used as fuel for Byrne's re-election. It is woefully apparent that, what with illegal gun and drug traffic rampant in Suffolk County, he needs something — anything — to

convince the public that he is worth re-electing. For most people, a sabbatical means taking one year off every few years. Byrne's sabbaticals involve working for one year out of every four, as he has since 1954.

The second way that we are being used is as mud — to smear Judge Bonin as savagely as possible. Apparently, the District Attorney would have us believe that it is much worse to support gay rights than it is to lie, cheat, harass, and slander people. Anything or anyone vaguely (or unknowingly) on the side of the gay community is immediately guilty of supporting all sorts of disgusting things. Or at least Byrne thinks so.

That there has been a vendetta against Judge Bonin since his appointment by Governor Dukakis a year ago is also quite clear. From the start, he was resented because he was not a member of the "club" — the conservative, legal establishment. When the governor nominated this liberal lawyer last year, McLaughlin was incensed. And the same press which has been so reticent to investigate the District Attorney's office began to impugn Bonin's integrity with unparalleled vehemence.

It is debatable whether Bonin should have appeared at the Gore Vidal lecture. On one hand, it was a public event at a church, advertised everywhere, and there was never any indication in the advance publicity that the money raised would be used for pending Superior Court trials. And, in fact, the money will not be used that way.

On the other hand, however, Bonin took a calculated risk by attending the function when some of the Revere defendants and their lawyers were within shouting distance. It is not so much that being there was a conflict of interest, but that it may have seemed like one to readers of the *Boston Herald American* who saw the headline, "Bonin at Benefit for Sex Defendants" on Page One.

But we are willing to bet that if Bonin had instead paid \$5 to hear Anita Bryant or Ed Davis speak at the "Revere Committee to Execute Faggots," there would be few calls for his resignation. If the judge's appearance at the Vidal lecture did anything, it scared Garrett Byrne by suggesting that the defendants may, in fact, actually receive a fair trial. Why that thought unnerves the D.A. so much is anyone's guess.

GCN demands that Attorney General Francis X. Bellotti superecede Byrne's office in the prosecution of the Revere cases, as is the attorney general's prerogative. (The state took over the investigation of a Suffolk County *arson* ring last year in this manner.) The political and emotional manner in which these cases have been handled has made it impossible for a fair trial to take place unless the prosecutor is changed.

We also believe that the legislation sponsored by Rep. Peter Flynn (D-Bridgewater) to remove Judge Bonin from office is both premature and unwarranted. Supervision of judges is properly within the province of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Committee on Judicial Responsibility, and until their investigations and recommendations are complete, any action by the Legislature is wrong. Just as judicial interference with legislative operations is minimal, so should the homophobic House and Senate members refrain from the Bonin case, at least until the proper agencies do their jobs.

And finally, we would observe that all of our community is being victimized by this climate of hysteria perpetrated by the media and the Suffolk County D.A. The existence of a Boston/Boise Committee obviously has upset a lot of people. We are fighting back, and maybe that's the *only* good thing to happen in the last few months.

NEWS EDITOR

Gay Community News is looking for a News Editor. Must have nerves of steel, an iron constitution, and an affinity for poverty (\$70 per week). Call Jim or Richard at 426-4469.

PLANNING MEETING for GCN/ GAY PRIDE WEEK BENEFIT at 1270 Thursday, April 20, 8-10 p.m. For information call Michael Campbell, 267-0587.

Board Meeting

The semi-annual membership meeting of GCN will be held Saturday, April 22 at 1 p.m. in the GCN offices, 22 Bromfield St. Nominations for Board members will be taken from the floor. All members of the GCN Corporation, including volunteers, are urged to attend.

community voices

bothered by craig outrage at BPL

Dear GCN,

I am a bit bothered by all the reviews and articles on Craig Russell. Granted, he can be very entertaining and "Ourragious" was very exciting, but I do have one thing to say.

I paid a good price for his show at Berklee (it was the second show). He not only finished a half hour earlier, but he was very unprofessional during his entire act. I kept waiting for it to get better. He came out stumbling and was very incoherent. He didn't seem to be in tune to the audience at all. All in all, I was very disappointed with the whole evening. I could have had a better time watching the "Gong Show."

Sincerely,

JoAnn Schwartz
Boston

A Letter to the Editor:

I am outraged at the recent reports of police harassment of gay men at the Boston Public Library. I must state at the outset that I am opposed to the sexual solicitation that takes place in the Library's men's room, but the activities of the Boston Police go far beyond the regulation of this problem.

If the reports which I have read are accurate, the Boston Police have gone much further than the Library's request that they control the activity in the men's room. They have engaged in active entrapment of gay men in many other areas of the general library, using techniques that are certainly questionable and rather unethical. What I am referring to is the use of plainclothes police officers dressed and behaving in a fashion

planned to attract the attention of gay men at the Library. When they receive the response they are looking for, they arrest the person at whom their advances were made. The charge: "open and gross lewdness". The grounds upon which these charges are made are so flimsy as to not be believed. It seems that smiling, talking and otherwise behaving in a normal manner is grounds for arrest. An arrest was allegedly made even after one gay man refused the advances of one of these police officers, who, upon asking if the man in question was gay, not only received an affirmative answer, but also another refusal of the police officer's overture. This seems to me to be entrapment, which I believe to be illegal!

J.F.B.
Boston

GCN Contributors

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Opinions reflected in "editorial" represent the views of the editorial board. Signed letters and columns reflect the views and opinions of the authors only. Comments, criticisms, and information are always welcome from our readers: remember, it's YOUR paper!

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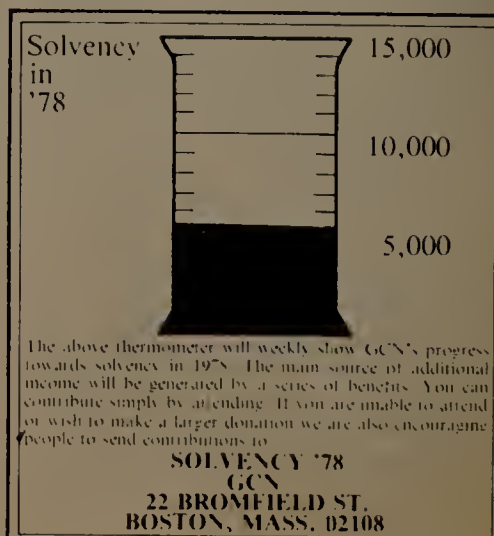
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speaking out

Taking Issue with 'Our Right to Love'

By Nancy Walker

I read with considerable annoyance the review of *Our Right to Love* by Pat Kuras entitled "A Lesbian Panorama," in GCN, Volume 5, number 36. Ms. Kuras praises an article in the book by Polly Kellogg, called "Breaking Up," which is one of the most ill-thought out, badly written pieces of gibberish I've seen in a long time. Ms. Kellogg's thesis is that loving someone and losing her, and the subsequent pain of such a loss, is really the result of homophobic pressures, the need to retain our lesbian identity, and a whole host of totally unrelated ideas culminating in the suggestion that if we have enough ties with the lesbian community, breaking up might be as easy to cope with (and dehumanizing I might add) as playing musical chairs. God forbid! Ms. Kellogg completely refuses to recognize the possibility that genuine love between two healthy, clearly distinguishable individuals, who don't give a fuck about the homophobic society, and don't use each other as substitute mothers, etc., can exist. That love, not dependency in its sicker modes, can exist and last till "death do us part" is the possibility that would frighten Ms. Kellogg and her think alikes more nearly to death than the prospect of installing a revolving door in their bedrooms. Whoopee!

And now, ladies and gentlemen, for the best of all. Ms. Kuras mentions in her review, that "our own GCN has a few laurels tossed our way." Laurels are not bramble bushes, I take it, so something is amiss somewhere, or should I say a-Ms? In any case, I quote from page 248 of *Our Right to Love*: "... About one third of GCN is ad copy, so, like most *male* publications, it is *able to afford* the amenities (necessities, really) of respectable journalism (typesetting, weekly publication, correspondents, origination of news)." [The italics, except for GCN, are mine].

Those of you who are subscribers, or regular readers of this paper, know how absurd any reference to us and a sufficiency of working capital is. We have the "amenities" of typesetting because our typesetter cared enough about us to give us rates far below the usual for such services. Without Xanadu Graphics we could not have come into existence or remained there. We do not pay any of our writers, correspondents or otherwise. We publish weekly because the people who work for this paper are dedicated and probably certifiably nuts. As for being a *male* paper, I haven't looked lately, but I have nothing growing below the waterline that would indicate anything other than female.

I have been with GCN now for almost two years, sputtering and scrapping noisily all the way. The men have not "tolerated" me. I have felt liked or disliked, agreed with or disagreed with, not because of my gender but because of my ideas. In all the time I've been here, the men have continuously and consistently tried to attract more women onto the staff, as writers and editors. When I arrived on the scene Lyn Rosen was the Managing Editor. At the moment, we have women running the business, distribution and classified departments. We have a number of female writers and we are certainly hoping to find more.

Do I sound angry? Good. I am. Feminist publications tend to run off at the mouth about sisterhood being wonderful and the whole male establishment stinking. What they seldom, if ever, bother to do is get their facts straight. GCN is not *male*; it is gay; it is community. It at least tries to get its facts straight. That damned lesbian resource book should have dealt exclusively with resources and left the klutzy, snide, bitchy little anti-male comments out.

I do not know how accurate the rest of the book is, but once such a blatant instance of error and prejudice becomes apparent, the remainder of the book has to be suspect also.

I am often appalled by an attitude that seems prevalent among the activists in our movement, the assumption that if something is gay and feminist it *has* to be good or treated as if it were good, regardless of the actual merits of the case. We do ourselves and our community a disservice every time we abdicate our responsibility to tell the real truth as we see it with eyes unclouded and brains brought fully to bear on the subject at hand. I wish *Our Right to Love* were as coherent, fair-minded and useful as it should have been. But it simply is not. Better luck next time.

community voices

fighting the military

Dear GCN:

I enjoyed your past issue on the new regulation of the US Navy concerning retention of those sailors accused of committing homosexual acts (GCN Vol 5, No. 35).

It hits me personally since I recently was discharged from the Naval Service because of my homosexuality. I'm a new resident of Boston because of the continuing fight with the military on this stand — this time with the Army at Ft. Devens. I came here to join my lover in his fight to get honorably discharged from the Army, also because of his homosexuality.

It's been nine months since we began our fight, me from California where I was stationed, and Tony (fictional name) from Ft. Devens. Tony's Board of Officers, similar to a trial, is coming up soon and it's a great strain on both of us. We didn't ask for this fight, but because of prejudicial laws the Defense Dept. still has, we were forced to accept it.

While I was in the Navy, I saw many careers go down the drain because someone was suspected of being homosexual. Most were good sailors, who loved the service and had intentions of making it their career.

My best friend, who was also gay, was almost court-martialed when a petty officer reported seeing him kiss another man. The Armed Services goes to great lengths to make sure there is no prejudice against blacks, women, orientals, and others, but when it comes to homosexuals, they're the subject of jokes and laughed at.

I simply can't understand why anyone would put down someone who loves someone else. Isn't there enough hate in the world? I'm sure you've heard all these arguments before, but let's not forget that many people are fighting the military on their own, except for their lawyer who works for the government, and need reassurance that someone does care and is willing to do something about it.

Sincerely,
Name Withheld on Request

GCN welcomes letters and comments from our readers. Letters for publication should be typed (double-spaced), or printed neatly, and signed. If requested, your name will be withheld.

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Vidal

Continued from page 1

for defendants." But Frank added, "It was perfectly possible to go there and not be aware of the nature of the event." Frank said he intends to write the Committee on Judicial Responsibility to inform them as much.

The Committee on Judicial Responsibility subpoenaed videotapes belonging to WGBH-TV which were taken at the Arlington Street Church during the Vidal lecture, apparently to determine what role, if any, Bonin played during the course of the benefit. However, WGBH officials have refused to honor the subpoena, claiming First Amendment rights, and have locked up the tapes in an undisclosed location. One source said that the Committee is interested in whether Bonin was the "guest of honor" at the affair. Bonin has stated repeatedly, as the Boston/Boise Committee has confirmed, that he attended voluntarily and was not invited by the gay group.

Meanwhile, at its regular meeting last week, members of the Boston/Boise Committee voted to endorse the work of the National Jury Project, which is expected to play some role in the upcoming trials. However, the group did not take any action on the question of whether the BBC should contribute financially to the work of the National Jury Project, because there is some dispute as to whether such a contribution would make the BBC a defense committee, which it reiterated it is not.

Demonstration Voted

The BBC also voted to hold a demonstration on Thursday evening, April 27, at the Great Dome Hall in the Quincy Market, where Suffolk County D.A. Garrett Byrne will be holding a \$50-per-person fundraiser for his reelection campaign.

In other action, the BBC voted to schedule a series of workshops with the media, lawyers, women's groups, and clergyman to discuss the issues involved in the Revere cases.

In addition, they voted to direct their legal counsel to research the case law on the subject of statutory rape, which most of the 24 defendants are charged with. BBC co-chairperson Tom Reeves told GCN he is particularly concerned about the doctrine of non-rebuttability,

which says that a person under 16 is incapable of consent in the eyes of the law and cannot legally rebut the charge of "rape." Reeves said that the South Dakota Supreme Court recently invalidated the doctrine of non-rebuttability in statutory rape cases.

The BBC will also research the laws concerning punishment of statutory rape. Massachusetts is the only state in the country, according to Reeves, which makes no distinction between actual (or forcible) rape and statutory (consensual) rape involving persons under 16. For both crimes, the maximum penalty is life imprisonment.

Reeves had praise for the straight media for their coverage of the April 7 BBC press conference. "They really used our media guidelines. It was the first time they didn't refer to a 'sex-ring' or 'child-molesters,'" Reeves said.

Boston Phoenix reporter Flora Haas, who has spent most of her career covering the criminal justice system, said, "This is creating sympathy for Bonin among anybody who has read the Constitution."

ROLL-CALL ON SENATE RESOLUTION BY SEN. DAVID LOCKE (R-WELLESLEY) URGING SUPERIOR COURT CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERT M. BONIN TO SUSPEND HIMSELF FOR ATTENDING A BENEFIT FOR THE BOSTON BOISE COMMITTEE.

FIRST VOTE: To suspend rules to allow the Locke resolution on the Senate floor.

YES: Senators Amick, Atkins, Aylmer, Boverini, Brennan, Buckley, Bulger, D'Amico, Fitzpatrick, Foley, Fonseca, Hall, Lewis, Locke, LoPresti, McCann, McKenna, Parker, Rotondi, Saltonstall, Tobin, Walsh, Zarod.

PAIRED YES: Senators Bernashe, Kelly, Tully, and Pollard.

NO: Senators Backman, Mastrocola, McCarthy, Oliver, Owens, Timilty, Wall, and Wetmore.

PAIRED NO: Senators Rogers, McKinnon, Sisitsky, and Burke.

SECOND VOTE: On adoption of Locke resolution.

YES: Senators Amick, Atkins, Aylmer, Boverini, Brenna, Buckley, Bulger, D'Amico, Fitzpatrick, Foley, Fonseca, Hall, Lewis, Locke, LoPresti, Mastrocola, McCann, McKenna, Oliver, Parker, Pollard, Rotondi, Saltonstall, Timilty, Tobin, Wall, Walsh, Wetmore, and Zarod.

PAIRED YES: Tully, McKinnon, and Bernashe.

NO: Senators Backman and Owens

PAIRED NO: Senators Sisitsky, Burke, and McCarthy.

Woodstock, NY Rights Ordinance Killed in Rules Stalemate

WOODSTOCK, NY—The gay rights bill that seemed almost assured of passage in this Central New York State town was killed by parliamentary procedure recently. The Woodstock Town Board dropped the controversial anti-discrimination ordinance after a meeting marked by a series of tablings and withdrawals of various resolutions. Any further action on this ordinance was stopped by the board's failure to move it to a required public hearing.

The death of the measure did not bring an end to the controversy in this small town. One pro-gay merchant vowed to "fire the entire Town Board with a petition of recall." Shop owner Leonard Price promised to begin circulating a petition immediately. "I think I'll fire the board," he said, "and I can do it. This is a disgrace and it's been handled with a waste of money."

Ruth Simpson, president of Woodstock Gay People (WGP), announced that the group will "start over again." "Watch for our new petition," Simpson told the Town Board. "We'll start over again and begin circulating a second petition within a month. We

will do it year after year until we get an anti-discrimination ordinance in this town."

Meanwhile, Stuart Kline, a member of WGP, said he planned to begin a lawsuit against the Town Board for barring the public from a recent meeting during which the board and its attorney discussed the ordinance. Kline charged that people were "kicked out" of that meeting. "They ignored the fact that the people of Woodstock are the clients in this matter," Kline said.

Woodstock Gay People attorney Alan Sussman insisted that the law would have "protected" gays only, and offered "no redress for the violation of the human rights" of the other residents of the town.

Despite Attorney Sussman's arguments, the gay rights ordinance was effectively killed when the board voted in a 2-2-1 vote on a resolution to hold two public hearings on the measure.

John Natolie, the council member who abstained, felt the hearings were "purposeless" because no one, including the Woodstock Gay People, supported the ordinance as written.

new york, new york

By Harold Pickett

NEW YORK — On Saturday, April 1, I attended New York University's conference on "Constructing a History of Power and Sexuality", presented by the NYU Graduate History Society with support from the NYU Women's Center. After the first session, I felt I was attending a Gay Academic Union conference: so many of the session incorporated discussions of homosexuality and there were so many well-known gay people attending. The only difference seemed to be in the fact that more sessions were led by women and it appeared that women were at least 60% of the estimated 200 people attending.

As with most conferences where two or more sessions or workshops are being presented simultaneously, the personal difficulty arises as to which one to attend. This conference was no exception, either.

However, knowing that James M. Saslow was participating in the first session on "Sexual Imagery in Art" made the morning's start an easy decision for me. Saslow is not only one of the most knowledgeable experts in his field, he's also one of the most entertaining. His humor breathes life into an often dry academia. He underscores scholarly information with his own aliveness. Needless to say, I've previously heard Saslow at programs held at Hunter College and at the Glines Theatre in New York. He's also written articles, at one time or another, for almost every gay periodical published.

The first speaker of the session, though, was Alison Stewart of Columbia University, whose subject was "Love Between Old and Young: Northern Renaissance," or as she phrased it "unequal love."

Using a well-prepared series of slides, Stewart demonstrated the thematic portrayal of relationships between older men and younger women. The young women were shown with their hands on the older man's money bags, while the men's hands were usually at the women's breasts. What was viewed as the man's foolish behavior was shown by including the comic fool somewhere in the painting or by dressing the man in the fool's garb. Such quotes as "He who fills the fool's cap wants to buy true love" and "A young man's adventure is an old man's atrocity" were typical morals to be drawn from the paintings.

Women's deceit and cunning were viewed as her aids in the venture of gaining money, often to give to a younger male lover. Long, loose hair on the women represented loose morals.

James Saslow's topic was "Homophobia and Art History." Stating that "Homoerotic sounds like something you do with *milk*," Saslow went on to say that "the production of homoerotic art is bound up with discomfort about sex." The Greek world accepted homosexuality while the Hebrew-Christian world did not. The production of homoerotic art "waxed" with the Greek influence and "waned" during times of Hebrew-Christian influence. However, there were highly developed civilizations where homosexuality was not considered problematic. India was offered as an example of such a civilization, where sex is considered a universal communication regardless of genders involved. Saslow pointed out that "Gay art affirms and celebrates," whereas the purpose of church art is to "define and control behavior."

Judith E. Stein, of Temple University, presented "The Iconography of Sappho in Romantic Classicism". Stein thoroughly examined Sappho's legends and the subsequent interpretations that scholars brought to them. One such off-the-wall interpretation was that there were really two Sapphos, one a poet and the other a courtesan. Stein pointed out that such interpretations avoided having to integrate the poet and the lover, or the literary and the lustful.



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The Evolution of a

By Nancy Wechsler

I wrote this article on the Gay Parents Center because I feel the issue and concerns of lesbian mothers must be given more space in the Women's Movement, the gay movement, and society at large. Lesbian mothers and single parents often feel isolated and unsupported. The existence of a Gay Parents Center in Boston could be an important part of breaking down that isolation.

"Smash the nuclear family" was a common slogan in the Women's Movement of the early 1970s. It went along with a general hostility to families, motherhood, being a housewife — any role that seemed at all traditionally female. To want to be a mother somehow seemed an unliberated desire.

The anger was understandable. For so many years we had been told that we had to be mothers and raise a family. Perhaps it took an extreme anti-motherhood stance to eke out some space to choose not to have children. But during those years many women with children came to feel put down and isolated from the Women's Movement.

In 1970 I didn't think I would ever become a mother. I was coming to terms with my own lesbianism and feeling for the first time in my life that I had some space to feel good about who I was. I thought that being a lesbian settled the 'children question' once and for all — I would not have children.

My attitudes have begun to change. At age 28 I think more seriously about having children, living with someone who has children, or making sure there are children somewhere in my life. I have realized that my earlier assumption, that I would not have children, is a part of what makes lesbian mothers feel unsupported and isolated.

What would it be like to be a lesbian mother? Would there be people in my life to help raise the child and take care of me through hard times? What would it be like for the kids when they went to school? Would the State ever intervene to take the kids away? What would my life be like with children? These are just a few of the fears and questions that have come up when I, or friends of mine, have talked about having children.

As things are now, being a lesbian mother or a single parent seems like a difficult life. A more public movement in support of lesbian mothers could make things better. We all have something to gain from addressing the concerns of lesbian mothers. Lesbians with children would begin to feel less isolated, and our community would feel stronger and more united. Eventually it would become safer for lesbian mothers to be open about their lesbianism, due to increased support from the Women's and Gay Movements, and increased acceptance from society. That would tap into a new source of energy for our community.

Pushing the issue into the public educates people about lesbians. It says loud and clear, "Despite what you think lesbians are, some of us ARE mothers." Confronting people's stereotypes of lesbians is an important task.

The Women's Movement has changed a lot over the last seven years. Much of the anti-motherhood rhetoric has disappeared. Women have begun to talk in terms of wanting the power and the right to choose when and if to have children, and in what kind of world. We have demanded free, community-controlled child care, guaranteed income, full employment and good jobs, free abortion and an end to forced sterilizations. The Women's Movement and Gay Movement must now loudly demand that lesbian mothers have full custody rights with no restrictions.

Last summer in New York City a committee within the National Lawyers Guild, in conjunction with New York Dykes and Tykes, organized a training course on the rights of lesbian mothers. They hoped that by the fall those who took the course would have enough energy, skills, and resources to open a lesbian mother's center. Their hopes were realized as the Dykes and Tykes Custody Center, located at 110 E. 23rd St. #502, New York City, opened last November. Nancy Shilepsky, a Boston Lawyers Guild member who taught the course in New York City and is organizing a similar course in Boston this summer, talked about her New York experience.

"It was fantastic. We did the training and then the center was actually opened in the fall by the women we'd taught. Some of these women are parents and some aren't. The Center has been off the ground and functioning since November, helping individuals on their cases and doing major educational forums. People staffing the center took the course over the summer."

The Center started with only \$500.00, but more money was raised through benefit concerts, films, and grants. Boston's Gay Parents Project, planned for this summer, is based on last year's experience in New York.

Nancy Shilepsky is a member of the Anti-Sexism Committee of the National Lawyers Guild. It is that committee, with the encouragement of the lesbian mother's rap group (see GCN, V,36) that is organizing the training course this summer on the rights of lesbian mothers and gay fathers. Nancy Shilepsky will be working this spring to organize the project, while Guild member Holly Ladd will be responsible for coordinating the project over the summer.

A Guild member, Nancy graduated from Boston University Law School in

January 1978. She will be taking the bar exam in Boston this summer and therefore cannot make a commitment to coordinate the project during the summer months. She has been an intern in the 1976 Women's Labor Summer Project and the 1977 Lesbian Custody Summer Project. Nancy was a founding member of the Anti-Sexism Committee. She serves on the Executive Committee of the National Lawyers Guild for the Boston Chapter. Last year Nancy served as a member of the Guild's National Commission on Women's Oppression. During the past summer she helped, with other members of the Lesbian Custody Summer Project, to coordinate the legal workshops for the 1977 Lesbian Mothers Conference. Although a native of Connecticut, Nancy has lived in California where she was active in the Berkeley-Oakland Women's Union, and in Boston where she has been active in the local feminist and lesbian communities. She is presently working with the Mothers Day Committee organizing a rally on Mothers Day Weekend in support of the rights of Lesbian Mothers.

Holly is a second year student at Suffolk University Law School. She has been active over the past year in the Local Guild Chapter, serving on the Law Student Organizing Committee and the Massachusetts Chapter Executive Committee. Like Nancy, Holly is a member of the Anti-Sexism Committee. Her other Guild activities include the National Commission on Women's Oppression and the Guild's Gay Rights Task Force. Holly grew up in the Boston area and later moved to Burlington, Vt., where she became active in the Gay Student Union at the University of Vermont. She also did work with Burlington's Women Against Rape. Since moving to Boston she has worked with the issues of battered women in addition to her Guild activities.

The Birth of the Committee

The Anti-Sexism Committee of the Lawyers Guild was formed because members believed that it was important to channel Guild energy into the lesbian and gay movements. It began in March of 1977 and is made up of legal workers, law students, and lawyers. The committee is composed of men and women, most of whom are gay. It is now open to all people who are interested in doing anti-sexist legal work.

Committee work has included support and lobbying for gay legislation, coalition work with the Boston Advocates for Human Rights, participation in a Boston Gay Town meeting, the Mothers Day Committee, and compiling a legal resource list for distribution in the gay community. Individual members of the Anti-Sexism Committee have been involved in the Abortion Action Coalition, done support work on a battered women bill, worked with the Coalition to Stop the Unit for Violent Women at Worcester State Hospital, worked with the Boston/Boise Committee, and done defense work in gay entrapment cases and lesbian mother custody cases. Several people are planning on working on this year's gay pride demonstration. They say that the addition of new members will allow them as a committee to expand their focus. The committee feels it has a unique role as the only progressive legal group in

Boston with direct ties to the lesbian and gay community. As such, they feel a responsibility to maintain and strengthen those ties.

In light of feeling that responsibility, the Anti-Sexism Committee is eager to do a gay parents project in Boston this summer. They believe that the pressing need for such work in the Boston area, coupled with the success of last year's lesbian mother's project in New York, culminated in the unanimous recommendation by the Guild's Gay Task Force for the continuation of work in this area. According to the project coordinators,

"The blatantly homophobic attitudes of the courts has resulted in the denial of custody and visitation rights of gay parents. This oppression has been devastating to individual gay parents and to the Gay Movement as a whole. The gay community is fighting back. But that fight is hampered by a lack of communication between gay and progressive legal communities."

Gay Parenthood

The Committee's summer project is designed to bridge this communication gap and to specifically address the legal and political issues surrounding gay parenthood. The project's ultimate goal is to establish a Gay Parents Custody and Visitation Center in Boston. It is hoped the project will: 1) educate the progressive legal community as to the political importance of gay parent work, and bring to that community a better understanding of the legal and strategical issues that such work involves; 2) give the gay community the skills and resources necessary to better fight back against the 'legal kidnapping' of children of gay parents; and 3) create an ongoing relationship between these two communities through cooperative input into the gay parent's center.

Nancy Shilepsky expressed the reason for the project in human terms:

"The Guild's Lesbian Mother Custody Project was invited up from New York to do the legal workshops at last summer's Boston area Lesbian Mother's Conference. It became clear from talking to the conference organizers that there just wasn't the legal back-up in Boston that lesbian mothers need. There were rap groups and therapy groups, and individual lawyers doing cases, but a lot of women just did not have access to supportive legal counseling."



Gay Parents Center



It is impossible to give accurate statistics on the number of gays who have lost their parents in the courts. Of those who have tried to fight, many have done so by denying their gayness. Family courts do not often write or publish their opinions supporting their orders. Moreover, they have tended to cover-up the 'homosexuality issue' in what opinions they do write.

Historically, many gay parents, as well as gay people generally, have denied their sexuality for fear of reprisals. Those gay parents who did acknowledge their gayness usually did not try to get custody of their children or fight for visitation rights. The societal prejudices against gays made such efforts virtually worthless. Informal estimates indicate that only 2% of openly gay parents ever win when they go to court. Nancy Shilepsky told *GCN*:

"We have met so many women who did not leave their marriages sooner because they were afraid of losing their kids. The courts and the laws are pressuring women to stay in these oppressive situations. Even if the father doesn't contest the custody, the state might. Our community loses a lot of strength because of the very real fear of losing our kids or, if we are lucky, having the judge make us choose between living with our children or living with our lover."

The political situation is changing. The women's movement and the gay movement have created an environment for women and men to recognize and assert their love for members of their own sex. Many of these women and men are parents. With the strength of these movements behind them, these gay parents are fighting back.

The Anti-Sexism Committee feels it has begun to develop an understanding of the broader implications of oppression and harassment of gay parents. They feel that to understand the oppression of gay parents, and the children of gay parents, one must understand the relationship of what they refer to as the "American" family to the State. They define this "American" family as two parents, white, middle class, with 2.5 kids and heterosexually based. While such families are the minority in reality, they are the standard by which judges and the legal system judge the rest of us.

Lesbian and gay male parents are under attack because they have

rejected their roles in the "American" family. That family, says the Anti-Sexism Committee, is the basic economic and socializing unit in patriarchal capitalism. The existence of that unit permits the capitalists to pay one worker for the work of two. It produces an environment and a mentality in which children are trained to fit into the sex-role stereotypes that will keep them from fighting back against the exploitation and oppression that they will face as workers.

The Anti-Sexism Committee further argues that by living outside this family unit, gay parents present a potentially radical alternative. Lesbian mothers and gay fathers are not fitting their prescribed roles. Generally, they are supporting themselves and thus rob the capitalists of their expected "two for the price of one" bargain. Thus, like welfare mothers, they pose a threat to the capitalist state. This threat to date has been countered forcefully. The cult of motherhood, the macho cult, the homophobic attitudes of society have all kept women and men in line. People are forced to choose between their children (or even having children) and their lives. Gay parents are now refusing to make that choice.

According to the Anti-Sexism Committee,

"The struggle of gay parents is not being fought in a vacuum. It is intricately connected to the fight of all parents living outside the 'American' family. The children of parents on welfare are being legally kidnapped every day. Sterilization abuse in Third World communities is rampant. The divorce courts regularly deny custody or visitation rights to parents with unpopular political views and revoke parental rights of parents who have been sentenced to prison."

Although the State statutes differ, the legal standards are generally either "in the best interests of the child" or the "unfitness of the parent." Such standards are necessarily subjective and can be used against any parent who lives outside the judge's conception of the norm — any parent who is poor, Third world, politically active and/or gay. Shilepsky and Ladd believe that

"the fight for gay parents is a fight against the right of judges to make such subjective and politically dangerous decisions. It is, therefore, a fight for the rights of all parents living outside the 'American' family. While the roots of oppression may be different for different groups, the fight must be a unified one if all parents are to win the right to bear and raise children free from the discriminatory interference of the State."

More straight fathers seem to be fighting for custody now. Some are coming back to challenge cases that were already "settled." Often the cases are settled out of court, with the women giving up money and property and allowing liberal visitation — in order to be able to keep their children. But no matter how the case was settled, in or out of court, custody can be challenged anew, if a "change in circumstances" can be shown. Shilepsky thinks it is possible that straight fathers are challenging old settlements now because of a number of factors. Among those factors Shilepsky cited men's changing perceptions about their parenting roles, the increasing receptiveness of the courts to such challenges, and the power that bringing such a case gives to a man.

There is not much information available about gay fathers, though it is be-

lived that their troubles arise primarily in their fight for visitation rights with their kids, not actual custody battles. It is hoped that at the end of the summer, more information will be known about the problems of gay men who have children. Shilepsky told *GCN* that "the center itself will have to make its own decisions about how it will deal with gay fathers custody cases."

How can we win these custody fights and turn the tide? The Anti-Sexism Committee believes that more publicity is the key.

"We need to be more actively educating people, counteracting stereotypes. It will be helpful when the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) publishes its recent study on lesbian mothers and their children. The initial findings are that children of lesbian mothers are 'healthier'. We also need constant, active pressure on the court system. Courts and judges don't change unless we force them to. People have to fight back. Right now each woman goes into court as an individual, with her own children at risk. We need a much more unified approach."

Envisioning the Center

What will the Gay Parents Center be like? Coordinators of the summer project stress that what the center is like will be in the hands of the people who take the course and end up staffing and operating it. "It will have to be a community group — whatever it becomes, whatever people feel they need, will be okay," says Shilepsky. But she also has her own fantasies for the center,

"I see it as more than a service center for individual cases. It could be a center to coordinate more unified public actions, organize demonstrations, help with publicity. It could be a political group that is in a position to organize actions at courthouses, organize educationals for judges, social workers, do preventative work like that. It could serve to educate the straight and gay communities about the needs of parents. I would hope that it is a group that would be willing and anxious to work with other groups like CESA (Committee to End Sterilization Abuse) and the Abortion Action Coalition — groups that are fighting similar battles."

The Anti-Sexism Committee provided *GCN* with a detailed week-to-week description of its summer gay parent's project. Starting on June 5 and running until June 18, lawyers and legal workers will run an intensive training course for 3-5 interns. The interns will be people who have some legal experience. The majority will probably be from Boston, but it is hoped there will be some representation from other cities. The interns will be trained in divorce law, custody and visitation law, women abuse issues, welfare, food stamp procedures, and Medicaid regulations. Sessions will also be devoted to "how to choose a lawyer," related issues of housing law, wills, guardianship, adoption, and pro-se (do-it-yourself) actions. In addition to running the course the interns will be responsible for editing and revising the lesbian custody manual which was written last summer in New York. They will also be putting together a referral and resource file, locating an actual physical space for the gay parents center, and doing fundraising for the center.

It will be these interns who run the rest of the course for what is hoped will be up to 20 staffers — lesbians and gay men (not necessarily parents) who have an interest in this area. The committee

urges anyone who is interested in this course to get in touch with them now. No prior legal experience is necessary. A commitment of two evenings per week will be expected over the summer and one day or evening per week in the fall to staff the center for one year. Staffers will schedule the center's hours. Child care will be provided. All decisions about staffing — whether men and women will work the same nights or separate nights — will be determined by the staffers as a whole.

From June 19 to Aug. 11 the interns, with the help of some lawyers, will train the staffers. In 16 lessons the staffers will learn about divorce law, the law on custody and visitation cases, out-of-court strategies for cases, in-court tactics for cases, the uniform custody act, women abuse (temporary restraining orders and alternatives), "getting yours" (welfare, Medicaid, food stamps), "how to choose a lawyer," related legal areas, peer counseling techniques. The last three sessions have been slotted for future planning and organization of the center. Planners hope to be moved in to the Gay Parents Center by Sept. 1 and begin operating by Sept. 4.

If you are interested in taking this course please contact Nancy Shilepsky as soon as possible by calling (617) 282-1778. There will be an open meeting for all those interested in working on the project Thursday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Holly Ladd's house, 280 Brookline St. #5, Cambridge, MA (corner of Brookline and Putnam). Call Holly at (617) 547-7952 for more information.



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Gore Vidal: Adjutant to the Gay Camp

By Harry Seng

Gore Vidal has come and gone. He brought people out in numbers for a good cause. And it was not only the rank and file of Boston's gay community who sat before one of America's most astute political critics. It's impossible to know why 1500 people packed the Arlington St. Church, but what we do know is that a few more people in Boston know more of the truth regarding the motivations behind the holy war being launched against the gay community than they would ever discover in the pages of the *Globe* or the *Herald-American*, or, for that matter in the courtrooms of Boston. And so, from a purely pragmatic viewpoint, Gore Vidal's appearance for the Boston/Boise Committee was a success. Money was raised and, hopefully, political consciousness as well.

I have been actively involved in gay politics for only two years, but even in that short time I've learned that there are no easy answers to why people insist on oppressing gay people, except for the standard psychosociological one that people attack that which is different from themselves. Such an explanation is of course incomplete, as is most psychology and sociology which ignore politics. As we are beginning to see more clearly, politicians are elected by convincing the majority to hate and persecute an arbitrary minority. As Vidal pointed out, first it was the Communists (until Nixon inadvertently took most of the punch out of the Red Scare by trekking to Peking and Moscow), then the threat of Cuban imperialism was carted out by the Right (with Castro cast as Ivan the Terrible), then the Panama Canal. And, presently, fags — hardly our first appearance as lepers.

I am always both amazed and pleased when gay people appeal to political savants for solutions — amazed that anyone could be so naive to assume that criticism meets the needs of activism, pleased that someone asked the question which would allow me to gauge the sanity and integrity of the speaker. And so, when a member of the audience appealed to Vidal to issue a program for combatting the systematic oppression being waged against gay people, I was pleased with his response. To paraphrase Vidal: Be vigilant. Police are no less susceptible to intimidation than anyone else.

Such advice, sound yet hardly profound, characterized Vidal's remarks to an audience that should be studying the issues here in Boston far more closely than Vidal himself had time to. What Vidal, the critic, was telling us to do is something that should be plain to all of us: saying No! to the abuse we are being subjected to. And saying it emphatically and finally. If it leads to another Stonewall, then it must. Vidal, as a privileged person, has nothing personally at stake in such a campaign. Anything but encouragement and sympathy on his part would be patronizing and dishonest. As one of Boston's gay activists remarked, "What does an aristocrat, speaking to raise money to pay lawyers, have to do with the movement?"

The distinction between critic and activist is glaringly apparent when one puts two very similar remarks by Vidal and Tom Reeves, who acquainted the audience with the issues Vidal would address himself to, side by side. Reeves noted that the harassment of gay

people in Boston stems from a few people in high places (read Byrnes and his cronies). The people, the common man, are not against us. There are good people out there. This belief, reminiscent of Whitman and, by Reeves's own allusion, John Adams, is central to the commitment an activist must make if his involvement is to lead to anything but despair. Vidal noted that human beings are basically reasonable; they'll adapt to anything. The observations are similar; they are not the same. The activist is bent on change. The critic (if he is responsible) is content with revealing truth. One would never hear Gore Vidal talk of the majority as "the good people."

Given the time Gore Vidal had to acquaint himself with the particulars of the choreographed harassment of Boston's gay community, his remarks were apposite. Vidal has always been able to trace what is often a deceptive set of symptoms and diagnose the disease. This is in a large sense due to the encyclopedic range of his mind — which is not to say that he is a dabbler. The facts and the anecdotes are at his fingertips. And yet they are never hauled out in the wrong context. We have heard some of them before — the tale of Mass. Senator David Ignatius Walsh chasing Vidal's father around a hotel room — but the link is new.

Vidal's suggestion that gays lay siege to Long Island, setting up a line of demarcation cutting Brooklyn in half, is fantastic in the best sense of that word — it is a proper, but hyperbolic, response. It is only off the wall if one denies that a militant approach is a possibility for the gay movement at this point in time. We cannot sit back and expect a certain comfortableness to elicit favors from a power elite that would, if their fantasies could be realized, wipe us out with gusto. Nor can we all migrate to San Francisco.

The other tactic Vidal suggested, to surreptitiously cart camera and microphone into the men's room of the Boston Public Library, is much more dangerous. It is illegal to photograph an undercover agent of the police. If such a maneuver could be managed, and go undetected until one could present one's evidence in a courtroom, as Vidal suggested, then maybe it's time for a martyr to take the risk.

Finally, there is one thing that we must keep in mind in evaluating Gore Vidal's relation to the gay movement. As he has repeatedly emphasized, to him homosexual and heterosexual are adjectives. The words describe individual acts. According to Vidal, if one talks of gay sensibility, then one must talk of a straight sensibility. And what do Lyndon Johnson and Bertrand Russell have in common? I'm tempted to add, quite a bit. (And we can recall Aunt Ida's observation in *Female Trouble*: if they're smart, they're gay; if they're stupid, they're straight.) Whether or not one accepts Vidal's analysis, which is certainly much more than just grammatical, the implication is that Gore Vidal's fight against the powers-that-be is not one that stems from his self-identification as a faggot liberationist. That certainly does not make him our enemy. But, at the same time, it does make him part of a larger army. I doubt that Gore Vidal will be marching in the front lines of what will ultimately be our militant resistance to the abuse of the little gay person's rights.

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Hot Peaches is back at New York's Truck and Warehouse Theatre. Their new show, *The TV Show*, is not Peaches at their best (there are none of their really terrific songs), but for those who tune in to the spirit of this slap-dash little company, it is nevertheless an evening spent in good company with good humor.

Peach satire is real and is pointed, unlike the nasty, self-congratulatory sniggering of Ron Tavel's *The Ovens of Anita Orange Juice*. The Peaches have a right to say what they say because their jokes, which are basically serious, are about our lives: they care, and caring is the heart of true satire. Their "Come off it, Mary" campiness is a call for independence of thinking and being: free yourself! "Get real!" they sing, and you know they mean it. The fetching funniness of the Peaches — especially Ian McKay, Tony Zee, Agosto Machado and a performer who calls herself 186000 — is a matter of the people they are.

Yes, the Peaches, on a nearly non-existent budget, lack professionalism. The basic format of this show — taking off on television, with a soap opera, a quiz show, news, a cooking class and commercials for KY and grass, etc. — resembles kids getting up a skit. But the kids have grown up, and their concerns are those of gay adults in the modern, urban world.

The Peachtones, as they have before, supply good, bouncy music.

—Robert Chesley

A Peek at a New Gay Play

Playwright John Crabtree was elated when producer Robert Gordon telephoned him several weeks ago. Gordon, whose new Off-Broadway Theatre at Inman Square, Cambridge, opened last February with a highly-acclaimed production of *American Buffalo*, called with the news that Crabtree's play, *Crier!*, has been selected for a May production at the new theatre. "*Crier!* will be the first of my seven full-length plays to be given a local professional production," said Crabtree, "and it will also be the play's first production anywhere."

Asked what *Crier!* is about, Crabtree responded, "I suppose you could say that the play is 'about' being oneself, although specifically it's 'about' a young professional football quarterback, on the eve of his wedding, who is forced to come to grips with the fact that he is gay. I've never thought of *Crier!* as a 'gay play' though, just as I've never thought of myself as a 'gay playwright.' I certainly don't mind being known as a playwright who happens to be gay, but I think that all of my work, including *Crier!*, is aimed at a larger audience. It is the only one of my plays with what could even remotely be called a 'gay theme,' but I still wrote it for everyone in the audience."

Is there any connection between *Crier!* and Dave Kopay, the former professional football star who "came out" a couple of years ago? "No, none at all. I wrote *Crier!* over two years ago, before anyone was aware of Dave Kopay's struggle with his sexuality. And, of course, Kopay's book didn't show up until a year or more after the script of *Crier!* had been finished and publicly read."

"After I read Kopay's book," Crabtree added, "I sent a copy of *Crier!* to him, but he never responded. The conflicts in the play are not based on any one person's factual experiences, and the characters are all inventions of my imagination."

Why did Gordon select *Crier!* for his May production? "Well, first of all, I hope that the play is good theatre — exciting, provocative," answered Crabtree. "Secondly, Bob Gordon loves to be controversial. He calls himself a 'catalyst in the arts,' and I think he believes that plays like *Crier!* should be done. Personally, I don't think it is at all 'controversial,' but then, living in Boston, I sometimes forget that Boston is not Cambridge, and neither city is Spring Falls, Iowa. I mean by that, what you can say and do in Boston would be considered unacceptable and maybe 'controversial' in that euphemism known as 'middle-America.' Finally, I suspect that Bob Gordon feels that *Crier!* will enjoy a small success, or he wouldn't be producing it."

When asked about explicit sex and other modern theatrical shockers, Crabtree laughed. "If I say no, there isn't any, half the audience won't go to see the play. If I say yes, the commissioner of public morality or whoever he is will close the show before it opens! Right now, I'll just admit to a dynamite seduction scene of which I'm not ashamed, and leave it at that."

Crier!, John Crabtree's play about a professional football player's struggles with his homosexuality, opens May 17th at the Off-Broadway Theatre, Inman Square, Cambridge.

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X-RATED ALL MALE CAST

Gay Rage

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people, places and flings

By Eric Rogers

The GCN/MCC Variety Show Benefit was a delightful success. In addition to the financial rewards of the evening, the benefit brought together some of the greatest talents in the community. GCN's sincere appreciation goes out to those who gave their talents in our behalf . . . Janet Baker, Boston Community Folkdancers, Scott Dudley, David & Julia, Randall Hartness, Jim Patterson, Steve Soule and M'liss Calzaretta, and those wonderful Clowns in Review.

Another benefit for GCN will take place on Sunday, April 30 at DiRocco's Cabaret in Tyngsboro. Make your plans to be there now as the day-long affair will feature several wonderful events. A special champagne brunch will take place at 11:00. A special Gong Show with a \$50 cash prize will be held. And Patti O'Keefe will be entertaining throughout the day. It's a great excuse to leave Boston behind for the day and head up north. Don't miss DiRocco's GCN Benefit!

Hopped down to New York City for a lovely spring weekend. Stopping in at the Spike in Chelsea, I became aware of many people sipping their drinks and using sign language. Having taken a basic sign language course several years ago, I asked them what they were all doing in the bar. That's how I learned that the National Convention for Gay Deaf People was in progress in New York last weekend.

On April 23, Denise Levertov will present an evening of poetry for Common Stock, the community restaurant in Waltham. Dinner and performance

cost \$10 and the event is a benefit for the restaurant, which is in the process of relocating.

. . . If you haven't seen them yet, catch the Tom Wesselmann graphics at the Institute of Contemporary Art.

Kate Millet will be reading from her works at Amaranth, 134 Hampshire Street in Cambridge on Sunday, April 16. Tickets are \$4.00 in advance and the shows are at 3:30 and 8 p.m. For more information, phone 354-8371. . . Also on that Sunday at 1 p.m. will be a potluck brunch for lesbian and gay male legal workers, law students and lawyers, sponsored by the Antisexism Committee of the National Lawyers Guild. The brunch is at 2 Park Sq. Room 415 and more information can be obtained by calling 547-7952. . .

Sporters' Saturday and Sunday Brunches at 3 p.m. are packing them in. At 50¢ bloody marys, I'm not surprised . . . The Bar will be having a special May Day Celebration, so keep posted . . . P'Town's opening up again. Stop by the Post Office Cabaret for women. There's dancing and entertainment, including Maxine Feldman the weekend of April 14-16. Men are invited, so stop on in . . . Somewhere looks wonderful with the extended dance floor and the new carpeting and bar. Be sure to check it out. . .

New Words celebrated its fourth anniversary last weekend at a wonderful celebration. A wine-based punch and sandwiches kept the women and men happy and lots of people came out to wish them a happy birthday. GCN's best to a bookstore that offers so much to the feminist community.

BOOKS

Cardboard Cutouts

THE REVOLT OF THE PERVERTS by Daniel Curzon. Leland Mellott Books, 882 14th St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Paper, 213 pp. \$3.30 plus 30¢ postage.

By Robert Etherington

Several years ago, Daniel Curzon produced one of the first Angry Young Gay novels, *Something You Do in the Dark*. Judging by the short stories collected in *The Revolt of the Perverts* Curzon is still very angry indeed — at both gays and straights. He remarks in the "Preface" that "myprotagonist(s) . . . in many of my stories [are] not necessarily 'right' or even sympathetic. I've long thought that fiction doesn't require 'sympathetic' characters as long as they're interesting." True it is that the bulk of the many characters, gay and straight, in *The Revolt*, far from being even vaguely sympathetic, are vain, small-minded, cowardly, stupid, bitter or violent. No doubt Curzon's intent is to reveal the many ways in which homophobia and the rigid sex roles society has us all play can pervert even the most intelligent among us. Unfortunately, his unsympathetic characters are also uninteresting, largely because Curzon allows us to see so little of them. Most of his stories are short, superficial vignettes or blackout sketches about this or that usually unpleasant aspect of gay life and it is virtually impossible for any character to appear human in such narrow confines. So we are confronted with a long parade of such cardboard cutouts as The Sexual Bigot, The Flaming Queen, The Closeted Businessman, The Frustrated Cruiser and so on and on.

Compounding Curzon's problems is a prose style of Sequoian woodenness. In the sketch "The Child Molester," Curzon attempts a bit of irony: making a child the molester and old men his (willing) victims. Apart from the fact that such a reversal is too obvious to be

amusing, Curzon's plodding prose completely lacks the lightness of touch, the wit, the style to make this and similar sketches anything but dull.

There is, however, a bit of grain in all this chaff. During America's misadventure in Vietnam, Curzon spent time in Southeast Asia (principally Thailand). A few of the stories in *The Revolt* make use of an Asian setting during that silly war in which both officers and ordinary soldiers turn to each other, or to apparently willing natives (male as well as female), for sexual release. Of course, the general theme of soldiers involved in a foolish war trying by sexual means to establish and maintain human contacts in an inhuman environment has been used by countless authors in countless war novels. But in such stories as "Virility" and "You Get What You Pay For," Curzon dares to do what all too few other authors have done: he makes such contacts unabashedly homosexual.

"Virility" is particularly interesting, in that it involves a young anti-war soldier who, to his dismay, finds himself irresistibly attracted to a militaristic but extremely beautiful Air Force pilot, one who delights in dropping bombs on Vietnamese peasants. The solemn liberal vacillates despairingly between lust and hatred, alternately drawn to and repelled by the fascist flier, finally submitting to him entirely. Curzon's point is that no matter how firm one's anti-war, anti-military convictions might be, the libido is far, far stronger. How true, dear God, how true.

The presence of "Virility" in *The Revolt of the Perverts* prevents me from entirely condemning this otherwise uninteresting collection. But one insightful story isn't enough to salvage Curzon's wooden prose, shallow characters and usually unoriginal and obvious ideas.

GOLDEN DISH AWARDS

Sunday, May 14th
Champagne Buffet/\$5.00

Best Drag Queen
of the Year
Best Supporting
Drag Queen
Best Entertainer
Mr. Butch Award
Ms. Butch Award
Ms. Swish Award
Rest Area Award
Big Basket Award
Parking Lot Award
Humanitarian Award
Groovey Guy Award
Groovey Gal Award

Trophies Awarded
for each category

Reservations Preferred

\$4.00 Admission

after 8 p.m.

For more information 649-9186

Proper Dress Required



Frost Road, Rte. 3A, Tyngsboro

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LABORER
Rough construction work. Tony 783-5151.
(TB)

resorts

PROVINCETOWN ON \$4 AN EVENING
For the DECENT GAY MALE visiting Provincetown, CARL'S is comfortable, friendly and offers complimentary coffee, mixers, parking, etc., starting from \$4 Student Dorm. \$3 up Pvt Room. Carl's Guest House, 68 Bradford St., Provincetown, MA 02657. Tel. 467-1650. (48)

wanted

GCN is always in need of office furniture, paint, sofa, file cabinets, shelves and anything that is in good repair for our office. To donate contact Richard at 426-4469. (c)
We need a driver with a van or truck to donate time & truck (we'll pay gas) to help pick up donations for GCN. Call Richard at 426-4469. (c)

GAY TEACHERS

A gay teacher is doing a study on the situation of the gay elementary and high school teacher. If you are or have been such a teacher, or you have quit teaching because you are gay, and you are willing to discuss your experiences, please write to Teacher, GCN Box ABC, 22 Bromfield St., Bos. 02108. (ER)

penpals

We get many requests from gays in prison to put pen pal ads in for them. Limited space prevents us from printing as many of these ads as we would like to, since the prisoners do not have the funds to pay for their ads. We will print more if anyone out there is willing to contribute. For each \$3 we receive we can print one more pen pal ad. Send checks to Penpals, GCN Box k92. (c)

ATTENTION INMATES

If you desire penpals, please contact M.C.C. of the Rockies, POB 9536, Denver, CO 80209. (c)

Male 25 in prison looking for feminine gay male to share thoughts and ideals with. Also looking for new place to come to. Ozzie Robinson A025687, L-2-5-10, P.O. Box 747, Starke, FL 32091. (47)

19, WM, 6', 169, blond hair, blue eyes, gay. Serving 8 yrs. Getting out this yr. into all sex. Carey Jerry, 053430, P-1-S-8, P.O. Box 747, Starke, FL 32091 (47)

Black male 27 seeks correspondents. Will answer all promptly. G.G. McClam, 038193, 118, P.O. Box 221, Raiford, FL 32083. (47)

Will answer all. Red hair, 155, 5'10", like to dance, surf, etc. Robert Sellers, J. 3-N-1, 059541, P.O. Box 747, Starke, FL 32091. (41)

Lonely, seeking correspondence, interested in music, horseback riding, reading. Admire intelligent compassionate understanding uninhibited, liberal minded people. Larry Edwards, 145-185, P.O. Box 69, London, OH 43140. - (45)

23, 5'10", 140, blond hair, green eyes, Pisces. Please write. Larry Karge, 049555, P.O. Box 340—Hi-D-2-181, Sharpes, FL 32959. (45)

organizations

Metropolitan Community Church of Boston, services each Sunday at 7:00 p.m. (hymn sing 6:45), 131 Cambridge St., Boston (Old West Church). Edward T. Hougen, pastor. Office 523-7134. All persons are welcome.

A Lesbian support group will have its first mtg May 2 at 7pm at NH Feminist Health Center, 38 S. Main St., Concord, NH. The group is free and will run for 9 wks. initially. For more info call (603) 225-2739. (41)

SUPPORT LESBIAN MOTHERS

Lesbian Mothers National Defense Fund, 2446 Lorentz Place, W. Seattle, WA 98109. (206) 282-5798. Membership \$5.00.

GAY ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE NJ

—Men and women — Militantly gay — militantly proud — Join us at 176 Kansas St., Hackensack, NJ, every Fri. at 9 p.m. Political action caucus Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m. (201) 343-6402.

BOSTON GAY CATHOLICS

Dignity/Boston sponsors EXODUS MASS, a liturgy for gay and concerned Catholics every Sunday at Arlington Street Church (Boston), Boylston St. entrance at 5:30 pm. For info. contact Dignity/Boston, 355 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02114. Tel. 536-6518. (35)

NGTF NEEDS YOU

Join with the largest, fastest growing gay civil rights group in the country! The National Gay Task Force works with a professional staff on media representation, national legislation, information clearinghouse, religious reforms, corporate non-discrimination statements, more! Help support our work — join now. \$15 membership (\$5 limited income) includes Newsletter. NGTF, 80 Fifth Ave., Rm. 506, New York, NY 10011.

COMING TO S.F. BAY AREA?

Stanford Gay People's Union welcomes you. Social hours, rap group, peer counseling, programs, parties. Phone (415) 497-1488; mail to Box 8265, Stanford, CA 94305.

CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING

Men, 40 and older, have problems different from young Gay Activists. Small discussion group forming NYC. Call (212) 242-8112 or write Burdick, Apt. 1C, 270 W. 25th St., NYC, NY 10001.

In New Jersey, the Gay Activist Alliance/Morris County meets every Monday at 8:30 p.m. using facilities of Unitarian Fellowship, Normandy Heights Rd., Morristown, NJ. Info: (201) 884-0653; 347-6234.

BOSTON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST GAYS AND LESBIANS (BUUGL), an inclusive group of religious liberals working to provide opportunities for community building among lesbians and gay men, meets every Sunday evening at the Arlington St. Church, 355 Boylston St., at 7:00 pm. Lesbians especially welcome. For more info call Bob Wheatly at 742-2100. (D49)

GAY MEN AND WOMEN

If you believe organized religion is the greatest enemy of Gay Liberation, write for information on a new movement to GALA, P.O. Box 14142, San Francisco, CA 94114. (41)

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF WORCESTER, church service at 6 Institute Road. 2 p.m. Sundays. 756-0730.

publications

Before you stop trying to find a lover try us. Advice, Fantasies, Personals. Twelve issues \$10; sample \$1. *You're Not Alone*, P.O. Drawer 8398CH, Atlanta, Ga. 30306. (c)

FOCUS

A monthly journal of fiction, articles, poetry, book reviews, etc., by, for and about gay women, 1 year subscription (12 issues) \$8. Sample copy 75c. Always sent in plain envelope. Focus, Box GCN, 1151 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138. (c)

GAY SCENE — The Picture Homophile Monthly in 8th Year of Publication. News From Everywhere; Movement News; King's Reviews (Stage, Screen, Book & T.V.); D.D.'s Best Bets; Lesbian Life; Articles; Nude Plaything of the Month; Religious News; Personals; and More. Send \$1 for sample copy. \$8.00 for 12 Issues (In Plain Envelope) To: REGIMENT, Box 247 Grand Cent. St., NYC 10017.

FOCUS, journal for gay women, needs contributors. If you write short fiction, essays of interest to lesbians, or poetry, please send it to FOCUS, C/O DOB, 1151 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA, 02138. There is no payment, but it is fun to see your work in print, and you do get free copies of the issues in which your work is published. Include SASE for return of material not accepted for publication. (c)

BOSTON BAR GUIDE

BAMBOO LOUNGE 30 Avery St. Food, Mixed. BOSTON EAGLE 38 Queensberry St. 247-9586 Leather, Men, Thurs. Club Nite, Sunday Brunch 3PM, Movies Mon. & Tues. 8PM CARNIVAL LOUNGE 39 Boylston St. 338-7159 Dancing, Mixed. CHAPS 27 Huntington Ave. 266-7778 Food, Men. CITADEL 22 Avery St. 482-9040 Dancing, Men. CLUB 76 76 Battery March St. 377 Food, Women and the THE BAR 252 Boylston St. 247-9000 Noon to 2AM, 7 days a week. Dancing, Games, Food. BOURBON STREET (1st floor Citadel)	22 Avery St. 482-9040 Entertainment, Dancing. DELIVERY ENTRANCE At The House Restaurant. 12 Wilton St., Allston 783-5701 Men & Women. "It's Different." HARRY'S PLACE 45 Essex St. Dancing, Men. HERBIE'S RAMROD ROOM 12 Carver St. 338-8577 Leather, Men, Sunday Brunch 7PM, Thurs. NAPOLEON CLUB 52 Piedmont St. 338-7547 Dancing Fri., Sat., Sun. Men. PARADISE 180 Mass. Ave., Cambridge Talking, Mostly Men, 864-4130 PLAYLAND 21 Essex St. Men (Some Women). 119 MERRIMAC 119 Merrimac St. 523-8960 Dancing, Men, Tues.-Thurs. Buffet 9-11PM	SAINTS (Call 354-8807) Women. SOMEWHERE 295 Franklin St. 423-7730 Disco Dancing, Mixed, Sunday Brunch 12-2PM. SPORTER'S CAFE 228 Cambridge St. Food, Men, Saturday Brunch 5PM, Movies Mon., 3PM, Sunday Brunch 3PM. STYX 20 Blagden St. 247-3910 Disco Dancing, Men. THE SHED 272 Huntington Ave. Leather, Men, Sunday Brunch 4PM. TOGETHER 110 Boylston St. Disco Dancing, Mixed. 1270 1270 Boylston St. 261-1257 Disco Dancing, Mixed (Mostly Men). TWELVE CARVER 12 Carver St. Men.
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Quick
Gay Guide

BOSTON AREA (Area Code 617)

Access (Cambridge Hotline) 661-3900
Am Tikva 524-1890, 628-3986
Cambridge Gay Political Caucus, P.O. Box 218, E. Cambridge 02141 491-0968
Cambridge Women's Center 354-8807
Charles Street Meetinghouse 523-1081, 354-8807
Civil Liberties Union of Mass. 742-8020
CLEARSPACE: a community center for lesbian women and gay men (now being developed) P.O. Box 398, Allston, MA 02134 277-0966
Closet Space WCAS (740 AM) 380 Green St., Cambridge 02139 492-6450
Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Cambridge 02138 661-3633
Dignity, 355 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02114 536-6518
Elaine Noble (Rep.) 727-2584
Evangelicals Concerned 894-3970
Fag Rag 536-9826
Fenway Community Health Center 267-7573
Fengay, c/o Tom Nylund 267-1066
Gay Academic Union of New England, P.O. Box 212, Boston 02101 492-3353
Gay AIAnon (alcoholics) 843-5300
Gay AIAnon, Greater Boston 471-6884
Gay Business Ass'n, Suite 129 102 Charles St., Boston MA 02114 367-0733
G.B.A. 492-0056
Job Bank 426-4469
Gay Community News 426-9371
Gay Hotline (6-12pm, Mon.-Fri.) 426-9371
Gay Legislation (Mass. Caucus) P.O. Box 8841, JFK Station, Boston 02117 742-4811
73 Tremont St., Rm 224
Gay Nurses' Alliance-East, P.O. Box 530, Back Bay Annex, Boston 02117 287-1900 (X2396)
Gay People of UMass/Boston
Gay Professional Women's Assn., Box 308, Boston U. Sta., Boston 02215
Gay Recreational Activities Committee (GRAC), c/o GCN Box 8000
Gay Speakers Bureau, P.O. Box 2232, Boston 02107 354-0133
Gay Way Radio (WBUR, 90.9FM) 353-2790
Gay Youth Advocates 70 Charles St. 523-0368
Gender Identity Service 864-8181
Good Gay Poets 536-9826
Harvard-Radcliffe Gay Student Assn. 498-2014
Homophile Community Health Service 542-5188
Integrity, P.O. Box 2582, Boston 02208 262-3057
Janus Counseling for Lesbians, 21 Bay St., Cambridge 661-2537
Lambda of Middlesex, P.O. 1165, Framingham, MA 01701.
Nites and weekends 877-8550
Lesbian Liberation, c/o Women's Center 354-8807
Lesbian Mothers, c/o Women's Center,

46 Pleasant St., Cambridge MA (Meets Thurs., 8pm.)
Lutherans Concerned for Gay People 536-3788
Massachusetts Feminist Federal Credit Union, 186 1/2 Hampshire St., Cambridge 661-0450
Metropolitan Community Church 523-7664
MIT Gays, Rm. 50-306 253-5440
National Lawyers Guild, 595 Mass. Ave., Cambridge 02139 661-8898
National Organization for Women 267-6160
New Words Bookstore 876-5310
Northeastern Gay Student Org., c/o Student Activities Office, 255 Eli Ctr. Older and Other Gays, c/o GCN, Box 1500, 22 Bromfield St., Boston 02108
Outreach Foundation for crossdressers, transgenderists and gender dysthorics, 102 Charles St., Suite 433, Boston 02114
Project Lambda 523-0368
Project Place 267-9150
Sexual Health centers of N.E., Inc. 739 Boylston St., Boston 02116 266-3444
Fr. Paul Shanley (Exodus Center) 333-0146
Tufts Gay Community, c/o Student Activities Office, Medford 02155
Unitarian Universalists Office of Gay Concerns, 25 Beacon St., Boston 02108 742-2100
Women's Alcoholism Program, 1348 Cambridge St., Cambridge 02139 661-1316
Women's Community Health in Cambridge 547-2302

EASTERN MASS. (Area Code 617)

Dignity Merrimack Valley P.O. Box 348, Lowell 08853 851-6711
Everywoman's Center, Box 949, 14 Center St., Provincetown 02657 (4-6pm)
Lesbian Support Group, Mercy Otis Warren Women's Center, 298 Main St., Hyannis 02601 771-6739
Martha's Vineyard Gay Group 627-5370
Montachusett's Gay Alliance Box 262, Fitchburg 01420 342-5963
New Bedford Women's Clinic 999-1570
Provincetown 24-Hour Drop-in Center 487-0387
Survival Crisis Line 471-7100

WESTERN MASS. (Area Code 413)

Berkshire Community Gay Coalition, Box 493, Pittsfield 01201 442-9450
Common Women Club, 78 Masonic St., Northampton 01060 584-4580
Everywomen's Center, Amherst 545-0883
Gay Women's Caucus, Amherst 545-3438
Help Line 664-6391 664-6392
Lesbian Union, 9th floor, Campus Center, UMass, Amherst 01003
People's Gay Alliance, RSO 368 Student Union, UMass, Amherst, J1002 545-0154
Southwest Women's Center 545-0626
Springfield Gay Alliance 732-9315
Together, Box 427, Forest Park Sta., Springfield 01108
Valley Women's Center, Northampton 586-2011

CONNECTICUT (Area Code 203)

"Come Out Tonight," Box WYBC/Yale Station, New Haven 06520
CT Gay Task Force, P.O. Box 514, Hartford 06101 522-5575
Dignity/New Haven, P.O. Box 3712, Amity Sta., New Haven 06525
East Conn. Gay Alliance, Norwich 889-7530
George W. Henry Foundation, Hartford 522-2646
Gay Alliance at Yale, Box 2031, Yale Station, New Haven 06520 436-8945
Gay phone counseling (eves.), New Haven 436-8945
Gay Switchboard 522-5575
Gay Women's Collective, Women's Center, U-118, University of CT, Storrs 06268 486-4738
Hartford Gay Counseling 522-5575, 232-5110
Institute of Social Ethics/National Gay Archives, 1 Gold St., Suite 22B, Hartford 06103 547-1281
Kalos/Gay Liberation, Hartford 568-2656
MCC/Hartford 232-5110, 522-5575
New Haven Lesbian Rap, 148 Orange St., New Haven 436-0272
The Church of the Eternal Flame Universal UConn Gay Alliance, 211 Student Union, U of CT, Storrs 06268 527-2656
Yalesbians, Box 2031, Yale Station, New Haven 06520 436-8945
Wesleyan Gay Alliance 635-3035

RHODE ISLAND (Area Code 401)

Brown University Gay Lib, 305 Faunce House, Waterman Ave., Providence 02912
Office hours: Noon-1pm weekdays 863-3062
Dignity/Providence, Box 2231, Pawtucket 02861 751-3322
Gay Help Line
Gay Community Services of R.I., 55 Eddy St., rm 306
Gay Women of Brown, c/o Sarah Doyle, Women's Center, 186 Meeting St., Providence, 02912 863-2189
MCC/Providence, 134 Matthewson St. 272-9247
MCC Innovative Ministry (terminally ill, aged and handicapped), Rev. Michael Nordstrom 272-8482
Providence Gay Group of AA 333-1396

NEW HAMPSHIRE (Area Code 603)

Christian Community Church 292 State Street (617) 363-2286
MCC-Extension, 292 State St., Portsmouth 03801 382-4678
NH Lambda, Box 1043, Concord 03301 228-8542
Northwood Women's Group, G. Ball, Box 273, RFD 1, Manchester 03104
NOW Lesbian Rights Task Force, 4 Valentine Hill Rd., Durham 02834

VERMONT (Area Code 802)

Counseling-Support for Gay Women, c/o Susan Katz, South VT Women's Health Center, 187 N. Main St., Rutland, VT 05701 775-1518
Gay Student Union, U of VT, Burlington 05401, M-F, 7-9pm 656-4173
Women's Center, 182 Main St., Burlington 863-1236

NEW YORK (CITY) (Area Code 212)

Ass'n of Gay Social Workers, c/o Gay Switchboard Message Center, 110 East 23rd St., Suite 502, 10010 777-7697

Church of the Beloved Disciple, 348 W. 14th St., 10004 242-6616
Gay People at Columbia, Columbia U., 10027 280-2574
Gay Teacher's Association, 204 Lincoln Pl., Brooklyn 11217 789-8176/499-1060
Gay Switchboard, Box 805, Madison Sq. Sta., 10010 777-1800
The Glines, 260 W. Broadway 925-2619
Lambda Legal Defense, P.O. Box 5448, Grand Central Sta., 10017 758-1905
Lesbian Herstory Archives, P.O. Box 1258, 10001
Lesbian Switchboard 741-2610
MCC/NY, 201 W. 13th St. 10011 242-1212
National Coalition of Gay Activists, P.O. Box A-711, Grand Central Sta., 10017
National Gay Task Force, 80 Fifth Ave., rm 506 741-1010
Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop, 15 Christopher St. 255-8097
Tri-base Collective 533-4492
West Side Discussion Group, 37 Ninth Ave. 675-0143

NEW YORK (STATE)

Affirmation (Unitarian Universalist Gay Caucus), 34 Chestnut Rd., Delmar 12054
Broome County Gay Alliance P.O. Box F-1711 Binghamton 13902 (607) 724-1973
Capital District Gay Community Center (7-11pm), 332 Hudson Ave., Albany 12210 (518)462-6138
Capital District Gay Political Caucus, Box 131, Albany 12201 (518)462-6138
Cornell Gay Liberation Room 28 Willard Straight Hall Cornell Univ., Ithaca 14853 (607) 256-6482
Dignity/Integrity/Rochester 42 Tyler House, 17 So. Fitzhugh St., Rochester 14614 (716) 232-6521
Empty Closet Collective, 1255 University Ave., Rochester 14607 (716) 271-6750
Gay Alliance of the Genessee Valley, Inc., 713 Monroe Ave., Rochester 14614 (716) 244-8640 or 244-9030
Gay Brotherhood of Rochester, 713 Monroe Ave., Rochester (716) 244-8640
Gay Liberation Front, U. of R. Wilson Commons, Rochester 14607 (716) 275-6181
Gay Light Collective 389 W. Onondaga St. Syracuse, 13202 (315) 475-6857
Gay Task Force, 713 Monroe Ave., Rochester (Mon. 7pm) (716) 244-8640 or 244-9030
Hamilton-Kirkland Gay Alliance, Box 80, Hamilton College, Clinton 13323
Lambda Univ., Box 131, Albany 12201 (518)462-6138
Lesbian Resource Center, 713 Monroe Ave., Rochester 14607 (716)244-9030
NY State Coalition of Gay Organizations, Box 131, Albany 12201 (518)462-6138
Onondaga County Human Rights Coalition Box 121, DeWitt 13214 (315) 475-6857
Stonewall Society, Poughkeepsie (914)473-3857
To update your listing or to put a new listing into the Quick Gay Guide send info to Listings Editor, GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston 02108.

CALENDAR

We've expanded our calendar to include monthly listings. The deadline for Calendar Items is Wednesday at noon for the following issue.

15 sat

Cambridge — Celebrate Spring Fever Disco Dance, sponsored by Gays at MIT. 9-1am. MIT Student Center, 84 Mass. Ave. \$2 admission. Free w/MIT/Wellesley ID.

Cambridge — Gay Folk Dancing. 3-6pm, 3rd floor, Phillips Brooks House, Harvard University.

16 sun

Cambridge — CLOSET SPACE (WCAS 740 AM) John Mitzel interviews novelist, playwright & poet James Purdy. 9am.

Boston — Mark DeWolfe will host a gay seder at the Unitarian Universalist Gay Caucus, 355 Boylston St. 7pm.

Boston — Rite of Spring Dinner & Dance, sponsored by Friends of Dignity. Dinner at 7pm, Dance 9-2. Adm. \$4 adv. \$5 at door. Arlington St. Church Parish Hall, 355 Boylston St.

Boston — CLEARSPACE is sponsoring 2 separate Health Massage workshops. 10am-3pm. 277-0966 for details.

17 mon

Boston — Dignity Bake Sale, 10am. onward. Arlington St. Church 355 Boylston St.

18 tues

Boston — Lesbian & Gay Pride Publicity Committee meeting. 7:30pm at the GCN office, 22 Bromfield St.

Boston — Deaf lesbians and gay men are invited to meet other deaf gays and hearing gays who know (or are learning) sign. 8:30pm, MCC, Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St.

19 wed

Boston — Stone Soup Poets present Allen Ginsburg reading. 8pm, Church of the Covenant. \$2.50.

South Orange, NJ — Dignity monthly meeting at Student Center of Seton Hall University. Panel discussion on "Prejudice within the Gay Community". 7:30pm.

20 thurs

Cambridge — Open meeting for anyone interested in the Gay Parents Project. 7:30pm. 280 Brookline St. #5. For more info. call Holly at 547-7952.

BOSTON — Planning Meeting for GCN/Gay Pride Week Benefit at 1270. 8-10pm. For Information, call Michael Campbell at 267-0587.

21 fri

Boston — Am Tikva's First Passover. Boston's gay Jewish group invites all to celebrate the first night Seder with us. This will be a pot-luck Seder of appropriate Passover dishes. Info: 353-1821.

Cambridge — Autograph Party for Ron Schreiber's book *False Clues*, the first publication of a new gay press, Calamus Books. 4:30-6pm. Grolier Bookshop, 6 Plympton St. 547-4648.

22 sat

Boston — The semi-annual membership meeting of *Gay Community News* will be held at 1pm in the GCN offices. Nominations for Board members will be taken from the floor. All members of the GCN corporation, including volunteers, are urged to attend.

Cambridge — Gay Folk Dancing. 3-6pm 3rd floor, Phillips Brooks House, Harvard University.

Newton Centre — "Gay Women and the Church" Conference, sponsored by the Women's Theological Coalition of the Boston Theological Institute. 9:30am-4pm in the Faculty Lounge of Andover Newton Theological School, 210 Herrick Road.

Newton Centre — Concert of Women's Music by Carole Etzler, feminist musician from Atlanta, GA. 8pm. Sturtevant Hall, Andover Newton Theological School. \$2.50 donation.

Providence, RI — Disco sponsored by Brown-RISD Gay Student Assn. 9pm-1am, Pembroke Field House, corner of Brook and Cushing Sts.

Maplewood, NJ — Dignity Third Regional Conference, St. George's Episcopal Church, 550 Ridgewood Ave. Contact Dignity/Metro NJ, P.O. Box 337, Irvington, NJ 07111.

23 sun

The Unitarian Universalist Gay Caucus will feature the Rev. Frank Robertson, gay U.U. trustee, 355 Boylston St. 7pm.

25 tues

Boston — Lesbian & Gay Pride Steering Committee meeting. Dignity, Arlington St. Church, 355 Boylston St. 7pm. All welcome.

NYC — "Working for Gay Rights: The Role of the Media". WBAI-FM commentator Frank Richter will discuss the media's place in the gay rights struggle. West Side Discussion Group, 26 Ninth Ave. 8:30pm.

27 thurs

NYC — Bertha Harris will speak on "The Joy of Lesbian Sex" at the Gay Women's Alternative. The Universalist Church, Central Park West at 78th St. 8pm.

Boston — CLEARSPACE elections will be held at Somewhere. 7-9pm. 295 Franklin St. Info: 277-2484.

28 fri

Boston — "Passage to Power, the Political Women", the Northeast Regional 1978 Women's Conference will be held at the Park Plaza. Information and registration may be obtained by writing Merrie Lynch, 1978 Women's Conference, 73 Tremont St., Rm 928, Boston, MA, or call 277-2478.

Boston — Maine to Maryland Women's Conference, Friday evening through Sunday afternoon. Workshops, seminars and open discussions. Park Plaza Hotel. For info, contact Polly Logan (617) 227-2478.

29 sat

Boston — Mountain Climb! Up Wachusett. Easy hike, all are welcome. Sponsored by Boston Unitarian Gays. We're leaving at 9am from the Boston Commons at the corner of Charles and Beacon Sts. Info: 277-6167.

30 sun

Boston — The Rev. Scotty McGlenon will speak on "The Rights of Mental Patients" at the Unitarian Universalist Gay Caucus, 355 Boylston St. 7pm.

Cambridge — "The Origins of Male Domination" will be discussed by Northeastern University anthropologist Lila Leibowitz at the Gay Academic Union. 4pm. Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Univ.

Cambridge — Women's Folk Dance. All dances are easy and will be taught! 7-10pm. \$2.50 admission. Sponsored by Boston Daughters of Bilitis. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. Info: 661-3633.

Providence, RI — Panel discussion of members from Gay A.A., "Alcoholics and Gays". McAuley House. 2pm.

Cambridge — Non-competitive women's softball game. No practice, no skills, no experience; bring bats, balls, mlts, cold drinks to Magazine Beach (on Charles River near Stop & Shop, 10 blocks south of Central Sq.) 5pm.

3 wed

NYC — Spring Social & Dance. 8pm. Gay Women's West Side, 26 Ninth Ave. at 14th St. \$3 donation.

4 thurs

Boston — Gay People's Open Poetry Reading. 8pm. Cafe Gallery. Dartmouth and Appleton Sts. So. End.

Baltimore, MD — Forum: Richard Mautsby, editor of *OUT* Magazine, president of the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club and communications head of the National Lobby on Capitol Hill will speak at the Baltimore Gay Alliance, 3rd floor, 928 North Charles St. 8pm.

5 fri

Cambridge — Allegra Productions presents an evening of Women's Jazz at Paine Hall, Harvard Univ. 8pm. Suggested donation \$3.50. Baba yaga, a seven piece women's jazz band from Oregon. Free Child Care will be provided (call in advance, 547-1378).

Portland, ME — New England Women's Music Fest. Dance with Lillith, 9pm-1am. Portland Gym, UMPG. 43.

Cambridge — "A Tribute to Midge Mackenzie and Dr. Kenneth Edelin". 8pm. Christ Church, Zero Garden St. \$3. donation to benefit Boston NOW.

6 sat

Portland, ME — New England Women's Music Fest. Workshops, Poetry, Fun; 11am-3pm. Blues, Folk, Country, Classical; 3pm-5pm. Kate Gardner, Mischief Meme, Sisterhood Harmony Band; 7pm-11pm. Portland Gym, UMPG. Ticket Info: 780-4086. Childcare and lodging available.

7 sun

Portland, ME — N.E. Women's Music Fest. More Blues, Folk, Country, Polly Baker, Opere. Portland Gym, UMPG. Noon-5pm.

9 tues

Boston — Meeting for Lesbian & Gay school teachers, ex-teachers, school workers. 8pm. 355 Boylston St.

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